

# Using Twitter for academic purposes



Twitter is a micro-blogging tool useful for building an academic or research community and for keeping up to date with social and educational interests.

- **Follow relevant organisations for your studies and future careers:**  
Following organisations on Twitter can be useful for keeping up to date with developments in your field, breaking news, new research and even graduate job vacancies.
- **Follow your lecturers:**  
Many of your lecturers are on Twitter and may post information relevant to your modules and their own research projects.
- **Follow your University library:**  
The University of Sunderland Library is on Twitter at @UniOfSunLib. Follow us to find out about new books and other library resources, training sessions, competitions, changes to opening times, any disruptions to services, send us feedback or ask us a question.
- **Search Twitter for information about emerging trends and breaking news:**  
Use the 'search' function on Twitter to find information posted by organisations, professional bodies or industry experts. This can be useful for getting updates for subject areas where policy and practice changes relatively quickly, such as education, health, business and politics.
- **Use Twitter to follow events, conferences or debates:**  
Using Twitter to find out what topics are 'trending' can be useful to search for popular events, discussions or conversations. Hashtags (#) are used to tag, or group, topics together and can be useful for following professional conferences, or events.

## How can tweeting help your studies?

Tweets are limited to 140 characters, so good 'tweeting' skills can help develop skills relevant for your studies by:

- Summarising key messages.
- Writing succinctly and precisely.
- Combining brevity and clarity.
- Selecting only the most important information and cutting out what isn't essential.
- Ensuring you get your message across to your audience.

## 'Follow' us on Twitter



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