Feedback, whether written or spoken, is a good guide on how your work is progressing. It should let you know:

- What you’ve done well;
- How you can improve or develop the specific assignment;
- How you can achieve successful outcomes over a number of assignments.

You will already have received oral feedback during the first few weeks of the Semester, both formally and informally, from a number of sources, including:

- Seminar tutors;
- Peers and colleagues;
- Personal tutor;
- Friends and family.

Today you will receive the first written feedback from the marker who has assessed your essay. It’s good to remember that tutors take both time and care when marking work so that you have the best chance of understanding where you’ve been successful but also where you can build on areas that might need more work.

Bearing this in mind, avoid just looking at the numerical mark you’ve been given. Although this is tempting, if you don’t read fully the marker’s comments you will be missing out on ways to improve your work in the future (as well as the compliments for what you’ve done well this time).

There are several things you can do with the feedback you’ve received:

- Read the feedback carefully; try to understand not only the points made but also the point of view;
- Re-read your assignment to analyze the areas that the feedback refers to;
- Highlight and/or cross reference the feedback to your work;
- Pay attention to positive comments as well as those suggesting improvement;
- Visit your module tutor in their open door;
- Make an appointment to see your personal tutor.

NB: If you do go and see a tutor, make sure you review your completed assignment before the meeting and take it along with specific questions and concerns – remember, it’s possible that they DIDN’T mark your work and so won’t be familiar with its content but they will be able to help you interpret the feedback received.