

Surviving First Year of University as a Student: Is it a Jungle?

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ABSTRACT The aim of this paper is to investigate challenges and prospects amongst first year students at the University of Limpopo, South Africa. The transition from high school to embark on university studies is one of the critical stages in a student life. This is the time when students have to learn new academic and social survival skills amongst others, without the guidance of their guardians. Most of these students, during the first months of university, struggle to balance between academic and new social demands brought by the new university environment. The study was conducted among 105 first year Public Administration students through a close-ended questionnaire. The paper therefore, compares experiences and strategies that are used for survival in the first year of university. The challenges identified during the data analysis are presented together with recommendations that can assist with survival strategies and therefore curb high dropout rates among first year students.