Live Facebook Chats – How do I take part?

Want to join these live online events on Facebook, but not sure where to start? Look no further! Here you can get to grips with the Basics of Live Facebook Chats, read our Top tips and then we'll answer your FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions).

The Basics

What is a Live Facebook Chat?

You will need a Facebook account to take part.

If you are already a Facebook-user you may have already experienced being invited to a physical event through Facebook. The difference with Live Facebook Chats is that they are an online event everyone can “attend” from wherever they are, so long as they have access to the Internet.

Everyone attending logs into Facebook and visits the event page, where they join the group discussion by typing messages which will be read by other attendees, as well as the host.

Top Tips

Tips you may find helpful when taking part in Facebook chats:

- **It’s nice to be nice** – Do keep conversation friendly and acknowledge that everyone has a right to their own opinion 😊

- **It’s public** – Do bear in mind that anyone online could possibly see your conversation – so don’t share anything you wouldn’t be comfortable with everyone seeing. Posting personal details, such as your home address and phone number, is strongly discouraged.

- **Follow the Golden Rule** – Although chatting on Facebook is a fun and informal experience, just like any conversation it’s best not to just go throwing around sentences randomly! To make yourself understood and ensure a good discussion, which includes everyone attending, you just need to remember the one golden rule...
The Golden Rule: If you’re changing the subject – Start a new post

An example of this may be asking an unrelated question or starting a new topic of discussion. Here’s an example of where a student has done just that:

![Image of a post]

The user (Joe Blogs) types a question into the box labelled “Write something…”

This appears as a post

Otherwise, if you’re simply adding to an existing discussion – Add a comment

For example, you may be answering a question that has been posed or commenting on what has come before.

![Image of a comment]

You might want to write “Yes, I’d like to know too!” or “I’ve heard of these”.

If you’d like to take part in this topic of conversation you’d simply type into the box labelled “Write a comment”.

If this box isn’t visible click on the comment icon to make it appear.
FAQs

1. What do students get out of it?
Live Facebook Chats during Freshers Fortnight give students the opportunity to ask questions live and receive responses from experts in different areas depending on the theme of the chat. For example “Student Societies”. This is also an opportunity for students to speak to one another and make study friends.

2. Who can take part?
In order to take part you will need a Facebook account. Most events are open to all.

3. Who can read what I type?
All attendees can read what you type, but it is easier for people to follow what you’re writing if you follow the golden rule explained above.

4. What’s the role of the host?
Each Live Facebook Chat will be hosted by an individual. They will introduce themselves and the main topic of discussion at the beginning of the chat. They are there to answer your questions.

5. Has this format worked in the past?
Live Facebook chats have been a popular way for students to learn more about different aspects of student life for a few years now.

6. What’s the difference between a Post and a Comment?
A Post starts a new discussion topic. These often take the format of a question. A Comment allows you to join a discussion that has already begun.