



## Second Life Tips

### from Wildcat Thursday

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#### General Tips

- Explore the information at <http://secondlife.com/>. When you are ready, click on the **Join Now** button on the homepage to begin creating your avatar. You'll also be directed to download the SL viewer software.
- Visit <http://secondlife.com/destinations/learning> for more information about education and nonprofits in SL.
- You will often see Second Life abbreviated as SL. Other abbreviations: SLED for Second Life Education and IRW or IRL for In Real World or In Real Life.
- The term inworld (or in-world) refers to being in Second Life (as opposed to IRW or IRL).
- Visit UK Island by searching while in the SL viewer software for **University of KY**. Spell it just like that. Be sure to friend Wildcat Thursday for help getting started!
- Beyond any technical decisions about hardware and software downloads (e.g., you'll need Quicktime as well as the SL client software) there are a few basic things that you should remember when creating your first SL account:
  - **Gender Neutral & Easy to Spell Names:** Picking a name for your avatar can be tough. Think about choosing a gender-neutral name that can suit any identity you eventually develop. Also, when people are trying to search for you, strange spelling can make finding you nearly impossible. Be creative but avoid swapping letters and numbers like zeros and Os.
  - **Associate the right email with your account:** Where do you want to get updates and information? Choose wisely.
  - **Filling out the user profile:** When signing up for SL for a course, students should keep profiles simple and anonymous.

#### Resources

- Find a **step-by-step tutorial** at <http://connectedcampus.wordpress.com/> (click on Second Life/Virtual Worlds in the left column)
- Find much more about University of KY Island at <http://ukisland.wordpress.com/>.
- Join the Rowdy KYians (pronounced *rowdy cayennes*) to get connected with university SL users, training, and activities statewide. <http://groups.google.com/group/rowdy-kyians> (you will need to send a request to join when on this page)
- See photos of University of KY Island at <http://www.flickr.com/groups/698297@N21/>
- Visit <http://technology180.wordpress.com/> for a follow-up to this presentation, with links.