



## Student Transitions: Example of transitions practice

**Title:** 'RGU: Connected' – Student Association initiative engaging Distance Learners.

**Transition(s) the practice supports:** Distance Learning Students

### **Abstract:**

A significant proportion of RGU students are Distance Learners who often find it difficult to engage with the wider university and do not always feel part of our learning community. Frequently the communication issued by the university's services to students generally is of little relevance to the Distance Learning cohort given their location and the particular profile of the students. RGU:Union has been looking at a number of ways in which we can better engage with and represent this group of students.

### **Description:**

RGU:Union is the independent student-run organisation which represents, supports and organises extracurricular activities at RGU. Recently, RGU:Union has been looking to try and further develop our work to better engage the distance learning community. One way in which we have done this is through introducing a Distance Learning Faculty Officer for Aberdeen Business School who represents and supports distance learners for that faculty. This has proven to be highly beneficial to the students and we plan on developing further representative roles. Another project has seen the introduction of more video content from our activities, to make it more accessible to distance learners, including the production of a video version of our induction which we deliver to new students, and live streaming events such as our 'By-Election Question Time' and 'Your University Student Forum'. We have also just launched our new 'Connected' student newsletter which is written specifically for Distance Learning Students. The aim of this is to give these students that information which is relevant to them and which they tend not to get in the existing newsletter formats.

All of these initiatives have been developed with the intention of building a wider community at RGU, and to enhance the experience and transitions of students at distance so that they feel a part of a connected learning community.

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**All examples provided will be posted to the Enhancement Themes website with the intention of including them in the National Transitions map.**