

Student Transitions Case Study - Extending Induction

ACTIVE | PARTNERSHIP | BELONGING

Traditionally Induction for new students into University has been a short sharp “week zero” activity. Students have been brought into the University prior to the start of term and we’ve told them everything they need to know in order to be successful. Then we all move on into the teaching term time and wonder why our students don’t know about our representation strategy or our attendance policy and don’t appear to have absorbed much of our Regulatory Framework.

UWS Student Engagement is keen to move on from this situation and with the support of an Audit of Induction we have been implementing a change to processes.

We are extending induction back into the summer, offering online interaction and orientation leading into an induction week where space is created for students to absorb information and interact with fellow students and University staff. Space is being created to allow interaction with:

- The University
- The School
- The Programme
- Professional Support Services
- The Student’s Association
- Social

Induction will also be extended forward into trimester 1 with events and workshops focussing on Wednesday afternoon on themes such as Resilience, Technology for learning, citizenship, the HEAR, as well as visiting speakers delivering talks on topics such as Global Health.

During induction week students will attend a range of sessions delivered by their School and focussing on their programme of study, their School and the University. A separate interactive session will focus on Student Services such as Careers and Employability, Funding and Advice, the Student Link, Effective Learning, Learning Innovation, Library Services and Information Technology.

On the Wednesday of Induction Week, Paisley Campus will host students from all other campuses, for a Welcome Festival. This event will feature bands drawn from our students.... and staff, flash mob performances again involving students and staff, led by students from our BA Performance, carnival style entertainments, “in the field” science demonstrations, leading edge technology workshops and an active zone for participation in a sports day competition.

Prior to Induction Week new students are being invited to join a Moodle course where they can engage with Smile.

“The [SMILE](#) package has been tailored to help you get the most out of your time studying here at the University of the West of Scotland, allowing you to enhance the academic skills you’ll need to succeed - both at university and beyond.”

The Moodle site offers a range of discussion areas where new students will have the opportunity to ask and answer questions relating to everything from University housekeeping, study skills, societies, employability, course concerns and values.

The threads running through all of these activities and initiatives are to help students to be **Active** in their education; to create **Partnerships** between students, the University staff, the Students Association and our University Communities; and to foster a feeling of **Belonging** for our new students.

Iain Maitland

Student Engagement