



Student Transitions: Example of transitions practice

Title: Interactive Student Guide to support articulation

Transition(s) the practice supports: Coming into university from college through articulation.

Abstract: Tayside and Fife Articulation Hub has been a valuable resource for students articulating from college to university. All Tayside and Fife Hub partners actively participate in activities to support the development of articulation routes and the students who choose to use them. However, with recent developments in funding across articulation, new and innovative ways of making resources available to students in order to prepare them for University life need to be explored. The creation of an online Interactive Student Guide aims to provide the student with an overview of what to expect, how they can get involved and where to find resources, whilst using University systems to access the materials.

Description:

Entering a new environment can be a scary but exciting time. This can particularly be the case for articulating students who are coming into the second, third or fourth year of a programme and may need some support in transitioning from the college environment into the university environment. At Abertay, a student intern has developed an online Interactive Student Guide, created using Xerte software, with the expectation that the guide will alleviate any potential anxieties and myths surrounding the University Environment.

The guide was created after talking with students on the Additional Funded places scheme at Dundee and Angus College. The researcher collected information as to the concerns of

the students and what it was like to attend university. Information was also collected from students who had already articulated and what they had found out once they had arrived. By combining the two sets of information the Interactive Guide gives an overview of the three concerns presented in the literature (Christie, Barron & Annunzio-Green, 2013) and the information gathered from conversations with students. These three concerns are:

- 1) The negotiation of a new environment
- 2) Fitting in with established groups
- 3) Independent Learning

The Interactive Student Guide was designed with student usability in mind. The general ideology of the guide is to acquaint articulating students with their new surroundings. It has links to websites that give details of student societies and sports team, how to navigate the university campus, library and student support services. The guide was created to enable students to familiarise themselves with the University before they arrive rather than being overloaded with information during induction and to relieve the anxieties mentioned in the literature. A key feature of the Interactive Student Guide is that it is accessed via the University virtual learning environment (VLE) which our articulating students have access to. This gives the articulating students the opportunity to gain familiarity with a key Abertay resource before arrival.

There is still more work to be done in creating online materials that are tailored to Abertay students, including the potential for producing materials for school-level entrants. Creating learning tools that can be accessed by the student prior to commencing University helps the student to familiarise themselves with the aspects of University as their questions arise. This guide complements the human interaction component of support (e.g. through The Abertay College Transition (ACT) programme which is the focus of another of Abertay's case studies) particularly as one individual sharing their experiences with another is a very fruitful way of dispelling myths related to University. However student interaction can never fully prepare the individual for the experience. The combination of online learning and student to student engagement has the potential to ease the transition of articulation student so they can begin to feel equal to their peers when transitioning into HE.

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References

Christie, H., Barron, P. & D'Annunzio-Green, N. (2013) 'Direct entrants in transition: becoming independent learners', *Studies in Higher Education*, vol 38: 4, pp.623-637

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

Interactive Student Guide (created by Pauline Mack)

Welcome

This interactive guide to assist and provide you with some information about studying for your degree.

Here you will find
[Information about the Associate Student scheme.](#)
[Meet the Team!](#)
[FAQ](#)
[Quick links](#)

Only have time for a quick look? Then try our [A-Z guide of Abertay](#)

We hope you find this resource helpful. If you would like any other information included or you would like help using this resource, please contact:

Kevin Ross - k.ross@abertay.ac.uk (if you are studying at Fife College)

Jane Graham - J.Graham@abertay.ac.uk (if you are currently on the Additional Funded Places Scheme)

or visit Student Services on Level 2 of the University Library.

You can also add your own information on the Discussion board to share with other students.

(image by Abertay University)



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Interactive Student Guide (created by Pauline Mack)

Finding your way around

You can access floor level [maps](#) of the building. These can help you to find your way about. One you get the hang of it the rooms are easier to find. Most of the rooms are 4 digits.

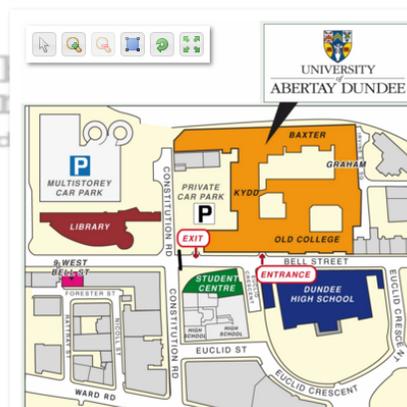
First number is the floor level
Second is the building the room is located. (5 for Kydd, 0 for Old College)
Third and fourth numbers are the room.
There are maps on every floor to help you as well.

Take a quick tour of [Abertay University](#) in 3.

(Image by Abertay University)



Abertay
University



Example screenshots from the interactive student guide.