

Strathclyde Business School (SBS): Foundation Week

SBS Induction

The Business School does things slightly differently from the rest of the University. Around 6 years ago, it introduced a 'Foundation Week' for students, allowing for a longer settling-in period. Like every Faculty, the Business School participates in the *UniSmart* induction programme. This happens on the Friday, before Week 1. After the presentation, students are split into groups of 5-6 people, according to their pre-registration. The groups are set a variety of tasks to help improve social and academic integration. A group project is also handed out before the end of the day. The project is group-specific and involves certain types of information to be gathered, collated and handed in at the end of the week.

In Week 1, students attend a variety of introductory sessions for different classes where lecturers talk students through content and expectations. At the end of the week students pick which classes to study throughout Year 1.

The full timetable sets the expectation that students have chosen a full-time course and manages their understanding of the level and types of work involved. On the Thursday, students must present their group project in front of key members of staff. There is normally some employer involvement (companies that students will continue to work closely with throughout their degree as part of the undergraduate Management Development Program (MDP) are also present at presentations), and a talk is given by a company representative.

Finally, on the Friday, students meet their advisor and choose their classes. Curriculum choices are then uploaded onto their PEGASUS (student record) account, ready for them to start classes the following Monday (Week 2).

Benefits to Students

Feedback from the students is given in the form of three individual 250-word descriptions of three classes they have **not** chosen to take. This not only provides staff with immediate feedback on how the Foundation Week could be improved, but allows SBS to identify disengaging students earlier whilst ensuring students have achieved basic knowledge of specific areas of business studies. This, in turn, allows for early intervention on behalf of the staff to help the situation if possible.

Overall feedback from the Foundation Week is extremely positive. Students appreciate targeted and controlled communication of information, rather than a mass overload of information via email or during one-hour sessions. Comments from the Foundation Week suggest students feel a more powerful sense of involvement and co-development with fellow students. Students also achieve a better understanding of what is expected of them as a Strathclyde Business School student.

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