

Preparing Students for Success

Presented by
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Background to Prepare for Success (PFS)

- A large number of level 3 students directly entered from college and had transition challenges.
- The idea behind *PfS* was that learners need to be encouraged to develop good study skills and habits to build their confidence resulting in improved academic resilience and student success.
- Observation of previously successful learners fed into the development of the resources.
- The ultimate aim was to improve student satisfaction, progression and degree completion.
- The commonly used analogy of a student journey was used.

Phase One – Induction for new students

Flight to Base Camp Ben Miannan

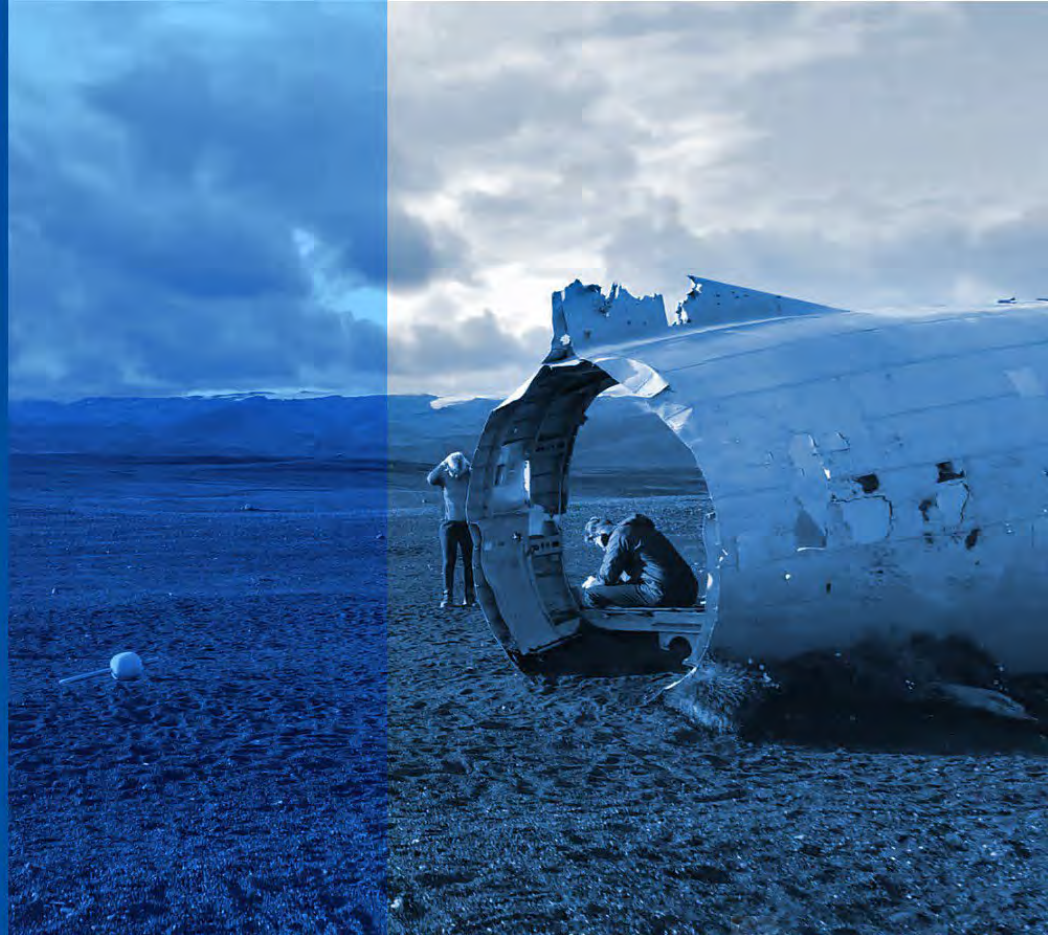




Welcome to GCU

We're going to be playing an ice breaker game in order to help you to get to know the other students you will be studying with this year.

University for the Common Good



Phase Two – Teaching Weeks 1-6 all students

Workbook



Prepare for Success

Student Workbook
Weeks 0-6

Newsletter



Prepare for Success
Newsletter - week 1
What is PFS?
This is your weekly newsletter to help you to Prepare for Success. We have combined our own experience observing our most successful learners along with feedback from them on what has worked for them to create these study and life skills resources. Use the Prepare for Success (PFS) Workbook as you go through these resources.

Procrastination and Time Management
This week we are looking at Section 10 in our PFS workbook. In all aspects of your life it is important to effectively manage your time. At university it is necessary to plan how to fit the additional study time you need to allocate outside of your timetabled classes into your weekly plan.
Login to GCU Learn and look for the organisation called 'Prepare for Success'. After watching the introductory video for Week One, select the Login to GCU Learn and look for the organisation called Prepare for Success. After watching the introductory video for Week One, select the Launch Activity button and watch the video Diary of a Procrastinator. Answer the questions in your workbook then go on to complete Activity 2 the - Time Management Calculator.

Careers Tip of the Week
Overview of Careers Service Essentials
• How to register for vacancies
• Key calendar highlights
• Placement opportunities/ early closing dates
[Contact with Careers](#)
Don't forget to watch out for a message from your Personal Tutor.

Interests and Support
Future Learn

Assessment Regs Week One Spotlight

Students were linked to the online bite size resources and encouraged to watch, read and interact with them

There were 6 weeks of extended induction after teaching began, with a different study topic each week

The infographic depicts a mountain climb with six numbered stages, each linked to a specific resource. At the top, two hot air balloons are labeled 'Revision' and 'Exam Prep'. A hand icon at the bottom right points to a clock icon labeled 'Procrastination' and another clock icon labeled 'Time Management'. A helicopter at the base is labeled 'Base Camp Rescue'.

Mindset & Self-reflection
Making students aware of how their thoughts may be holding them back. And why reflecting on their progress is important.

How to Thrive & Self-belief
An interactive PDF checklist for students to examine their habits and what to do to modify them. Plus, helpful questions to boost students' self-belief.

Optimising Study & Note-taking
Videos on preparation for study and optimising study sessions. Plus, an activity that allows you to appraise your study regime.

Exam Prep & Revision
A PDF study plan that includes good advice, mind maps, dealing with anxiety, etc. Plus, a video of good study habits.

Plagiarism & Referencing
A video on the perils of Plagiarism: how to avoid it and the possible consequences if you ignore the advice. And a guide on citing and referencing using Harvard.

Procrastination & Time Management
"Diary of a Procrastinator" is an engaging video highlighting how time can be wasted without us realising it. Also, there is a seven day, 24 Hours, spreadsheet to manage your time optimally.

QR codes available on the poster

Base Camp Rescue
New students begin their induction here and, when teaching begins, they are joined by continuing students.

Ben Miannan - climb to academic success

Phase Three – Teaching Week 7 onwards

- Focus on Sleep Matters
 - Togetherall
 - Sleepio App supported by NHS
 - Poster Campaign
- Mental Health
 - Togetherall
 - Poster Campaign
- Exam preparation
 - [Video](#)
 - Additional materials such as study calendars
 - Poster Campaign

Evaluation

- More than 70% of students accessed the material
- PfS resources were praised in staff student meeting minutes
- PfS was commended by the Professional Bodies
- PfS was extended to include PG students in other Departments
- Support was extended and used with the resit population

The Student Voice

Thank you for the help I will use these to aid with my studying

Thanks a lot for the useful information.

Firstly, thank you so much for your kind support, I really need that to give me encouragement, I'm so busy working hard on my coursework to get done

I have good news I have completed my work now it's done allow me to say big thanks for your support I really appreciate that

Thank you for the nice email I really appreciate it, I'll give the video a watch

Thank you for all the useful information you have provided, I will make good use of it

Everything going as planned thanks for your support

Conclusions

- The anecdotal evidence strongly suggests that the PfS resources and overall approach is helping students to be successful
- Further analysis is required to look at the impact of the PfS resources on student success as measured by student satisfaction, progression and degree completion
- For more information or staff development workshops please email me at esm@gcu.ac.uk