

Making student engagement a reality and next steps: Students as Partners in Redesigning the First Year Experience

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Centre for Enhancement of Learning and Teaching

Birmingham City University



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

What Works: Student retention and success programme 2012-16

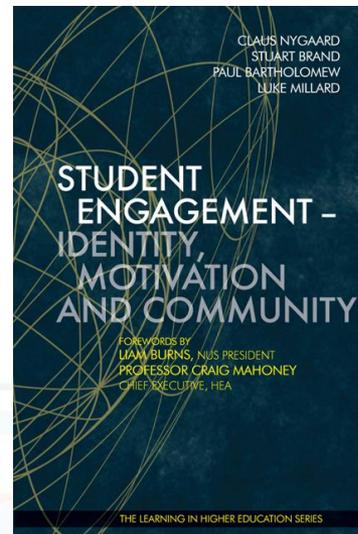
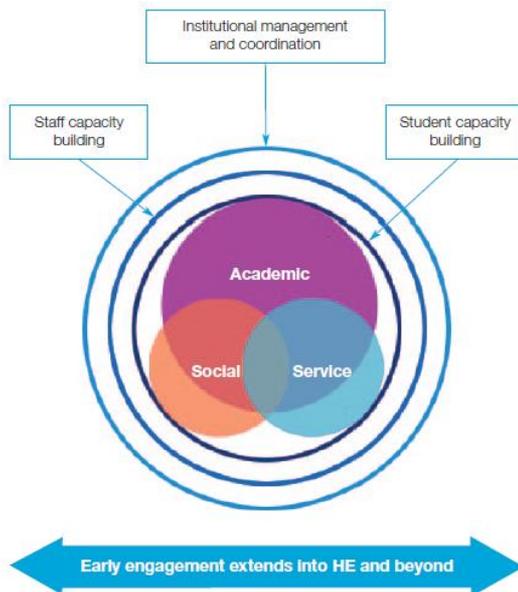
BCU approach founded upon:

Student engagement philosophy

Creating a sense of learning community

Students' Union partnership

Poor retention/student dissatisfaction in some areas



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

Aims

The aims of the Birmingham City University initiative were to:

- interweave Students' Union and academic elements to better support students through the transition into and through university;
- utilise this approach to provide students with a multiplicity of avenues for support and advice;
- ensure a smoother and more successful transition that leads to greater student and organisational success.

Through these aims the University hoped to:

- develop principles, processes and examples at programme and school level of how to improve transition and retention practices;
- raise the profile of this important work through the promotion of this externally validated initiative across the university;
- enhance the partnership with the Students' Union;
- share approaches from other participating universities in the programme.





Task

- Four tables: How might you...
 - Table A: further prepare students for University and induction
 - Table B: improve student learning the situation
 - Table C: create a...
album
 - Table D: support...
representation
1 hour

B

See no psie big
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lounge | drink

RESULTS → DAY 1
POSTCARD & SEACOLE BUILDING
TEA PARTY BEFORE DAY 1
DEEP W. MEET TUTORS +
& ICEBREAKER POINT-A-PAN



Staff – student partnerships

UK Engagement survey 2015 at BCU

Very often or often (sometimes)

Discussed your academic performance with staff 38% (41%)

Discussed ideas about your course with staff outside teaching sessions 26% (40%)

Worked with teaching staff on activities other than coursework 18% (26%)

Staff – student partnerships

UK Engagement survey 2015 at BCU

Very often or often encouraged to: (some)

Contribute to a joint community of staff and students 38% (32%)

Work with staff to make improvements to your course 37% (33%)

Work with staff to evaluate teaching and assessment practices
36% (32%)

Task 1

Identify a successful area of staff-student relationships at your university? Why does it work?

Share for 5 minutes on your table

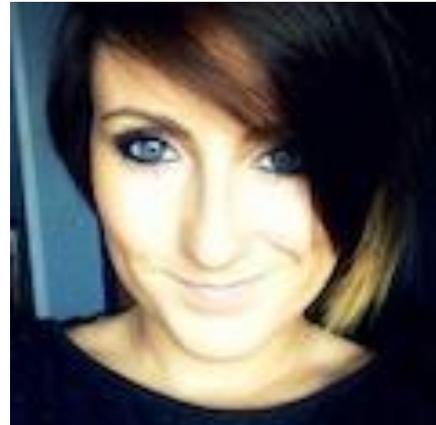
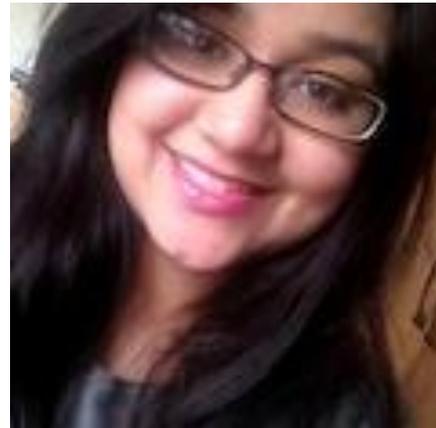




What Works: Our approach to support

- Identifying stress points
- Pre entry transition mentoring
- Extended workshops
- Embedded specialist mentoring
- Student Success Advisers
- Personal Tutoring development

“Offering the personal touch through connected services within the academic environment”



BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL OF MEDIA

RESOURCES FOR NEW STUDENTS



Welcome to Birmingham School of Media

SITE MAP

Welcome

- [About Level Up](#)
- [Your Level Up Venture Mentors](#)

Studying with Us

- [Level Up Online Learning](#)
- [This Week on Level Up](#)
- [Choosing Your Options](#)
- [Induction Week](#)
- [Meet Your Degree Leader](#)
- [Your Degree Specialism](#)



At the [Birmingham School of Media](#) we are in the business of producing creative media thinkers. So in preparation for study with us, we want you to get into the habit of being curious about everything! We encourage you to become devoted media consumers (if you aren't already!) and to evaluate and question the construction of each media text that you consume.

At the Birmingham School of Media, we aim to fuel your passions and throughout your studies with us, you are encouraged to be creative and

search



Choosing Your Options



As you will have seen in your Welcome Packs we are asking you to make your Year 1 Module choices online by **30th August 2015**. You'll have received information about the Modules you can choose seen in your packs and above is a film that we'd like you to watch, where the Degree Leaders outline the various modules for you. Please watch all of the film before you make your choices (it's around 12 minutes long), as we want you to make the right decisions for you. Remember that the Modules you choose in Year 1 will affect what you can choose to study in Year 2, so please choose wisely.

OUR LEVEL UP VENTURE MENTORS

You gotta just LUVM!



Student Success Advisers

- Pre Induction & Welcome Week
- Attendance monitoring
- Personal Tutoring maintenance
- Workshops
- Moodle Monitoring
- Applicant Visit Day Coordination
- Student Tutorials/Mentoring : one to one advice





00 DAYS 00:00:00

Welcome
Week 2014

COMING SOON

REGISTER FOR UPDATES

REGISTER



Task 2

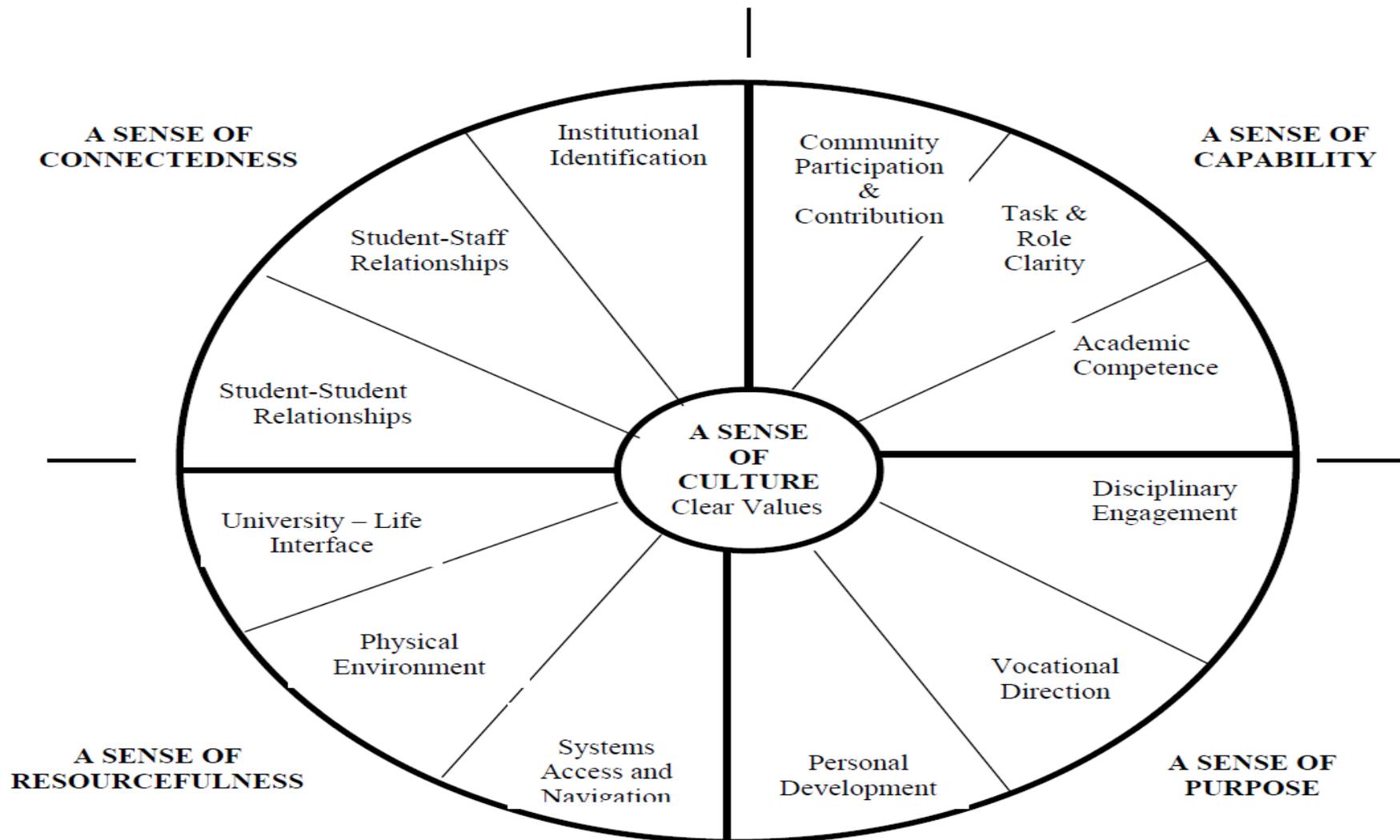
How can we use engagement to enhance a sense of belonging within Welcome/Freshers' Week?

Describe an activity or type of activity that helps to develop this sense?

High-Impact Educational Practices



- ★ First Year Seminars & Experiences
- ★ Common Intellectual Experiences
 - ★ Learning Communities
 - ★ Writing-Intensive Courses
- ★ Collaborative Assignments & Courses
 - ★ Undergraduate Research
 - ★ Diversity/ Global Learning
- ★ Service Learning, Community-Based Learning
 - ★ Internships
- ★ Capstone Courses & Projects



DESIGNING AN ORIENTATION AND TRANSITION STRATEGY FOR COMMENCING STUDENTS

A conceptual summary of research and practice
Alf Lizzio (2006)

EDU7211 Transition and the First Year Experience

Welcome to EDU7211 Transition and the First Year Experience

This module is designed to allow you to explore some of the existing practice surrounding student transitions as they join Birmingham City University and to examine new ways of developing our current provision in order to enhance their experience across the first year and beyond.

News forum: Come Talk to Us and Each Other!



Welcome to the Adventure

Assessment and Feedback



Academic Resources



Transition Mentoring



Social Engagement



Exciting Inductions



Personal Tutoring



Embedded Workshops



Academic Development



Our BCUSU

BCUSU

Upcoming events

There are no upcoming events

Go to calendar...

New event...

Search forums

Go

Advanced search ?

Latest news

Add a new topic...

(No news has been posted yet)

Navigation

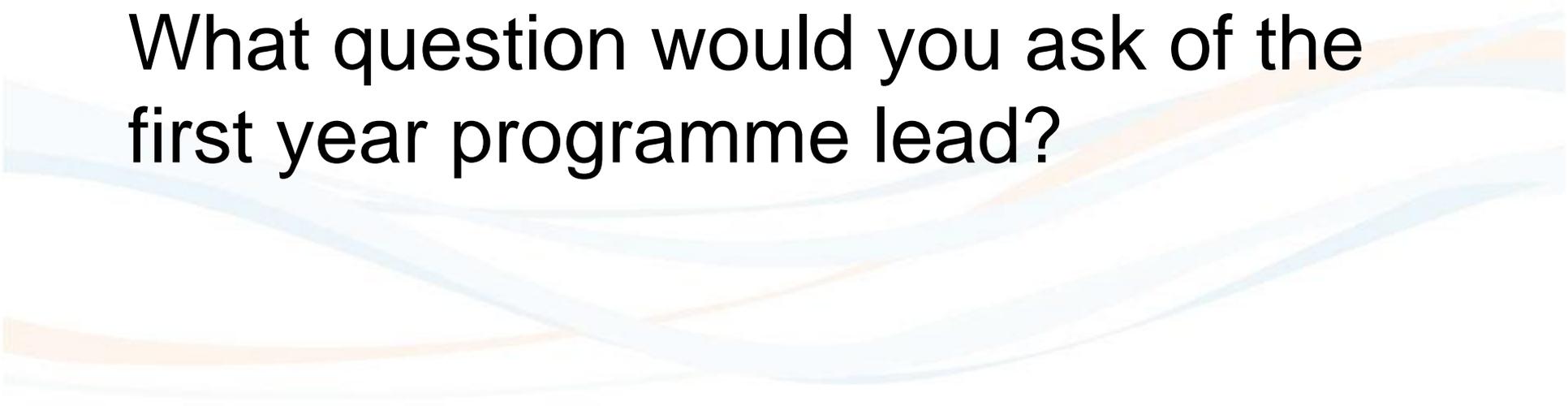
Home

- My home
- Site pages
- My profile
- Current course
 - EDU7211
 - Participants
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 - EDU7211 Transition and the First Year Experience
 - Welcome to the Adventure
 - Assessment and Feedback
 - Academic Resources
 - Transition Mentoring
 - Social Engagement
 - Exciting Inductions
 - Personal Tutoring
 - Embedded Workshops
 - Academic Development
 - Our BCUSU
- My courses

Task 4

Scenario....you are the external adviser on the approval panel for a new degree programme

What question would you ask of the first year programme lead?



Embedded Belonging



Through Institutional Student Engagement