

The background features a light gray field with a large white diamond shape in the center. The corners of the image are decorated with overlapping geometric shapes in bright yellow and blue. The text is centered within the white diamond.

Hand in hand: How schools and universities can support students with their transition to university

UCAS International
Teachers' and Advisers'
Conference 2020
(Online)

Who we are: the speakers

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Learning outcomes for the session

- Outline specific transition challenges facing international students in UK higher education, including cross-cultural factors.
- Review some of the research base for transition, including the 'Lizzio & Wilson Five Senses of Success' model, focused on building an academic culture which develops the student's sense of connection, capability, purpose, and resourcefulness.
- Discuss examples of approaches to transition from 'both sides of the desk', from the school/college environment and from three UK universities.
- Identify tangible opportunities to support transition in their own practice as teachers and advisers.

Some specific transition issues for international students

- Change in expectations of level of support vs. demands of independent study.
- Cultural and social transition – and how students might face this in an online environment.
- University-level academic skills: critical reading and writing, problem solving, academic integrity.
- Changes to physical environment.
- Mental health and experiencing culture shock.

What makes for a successful transition into HE?

[The Lizzio and Wilson 'Five Senses' model](#) (2006, 2010) describes the important factors of transition that contribute to students' satisfaction, engagement and persistence in HE.

Each university has its own approach to transition support; this is the model the University of Bath uses.



The Five Senses of Student Success



Examples of transition support 1:



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Ongoing support:

Free MOOC for schools on
project skills

Support for Maths, academic,
English language and foreign
language skills

Student Welcome:
pre-arrival digital
leaflet including
content for
international
students

Peer mentors for
new UG students

International
Students'
Association

Online self-help tools

Pilot of online emotional
counselling offered in
multiple languages

Covid-19 support:

New online resources
for schools
online Year 12 summer
school open to
international students

Online pre-
sessional English
courses

Flexible student
induction plans for
September 2020

New online wellbeing, careers
and skills support

Examples of transition support 2:

Considering University

Online:

- Online Open Day
- Discover University
- Unibuddy

In Country:

- University Fairs
- Academic Subject Sessions
- IAG Sessions

During the Application Process

Online:

- Regional 'Drop In' Webinars
- International Social Media
- International Student Support

In Country:

- Offer Holder Meetings
- Academic subject links
- School Visits

Arrival at University and beyond

Arriving at University:

- Welcome Week and beyond
- International Student Societies / 'Cream Tea' ISR Meet ups
- In-session English and Academic support
- Support services (in-person and online)

Impact of Covid-19:

- University Autumn 2020 start still being considered
- Blended learning may in place; student experience/support for transition is key

Examples of transition support 3:



Exploring university abroad

Country pages; In-country education abroad fairs; School visits; Academic sessions/study in the UK workshops in class and online; Peer-to-peer networking and Q&A (alumni; international student ambassadors..)

Support to applicants

In-country meetings; academic webinars; social media Q&A sessions; dedicated Facebook and Instagram pages; virtual tours and growing video content; visa support, pre-cas and pre-departure webinars; free online courses

Once on campus

**International Welcome Programme via Moodle; post-arrival information. Clubs and societies
International Student Advice Centre; Academic Skills Centre; Wellbeing Service; Money Doctor; Health and Welfare; Finance and Funding; Career Service**

COVID-19

It is key to offer reassurance to students during these difficult times; September intake planned to go ahead as normal

How can you support your students to reflect on the transition to HE in your practice?

2020 entry: encourage your students to...

Focus on their wellbeing and relationships

Resources like Student Minds can help

Disclose difficulties to their universities

Access online resources from universities and other sources

Engage with pre-reading

Follow UCAS and their universities on social media
Look out for student content

Access 'Budgeting as a Student' / 'Cooking a Meal' workshops (online)

Revisit key concepts from school work and develop digital and academic skills through MOOCs

You could work with universities who support sessions around 'transition' to university (expectations and reality), incorporating student voices where possible

How can you support your students to reflect on the transition to HE in your practice?

2021 entry

University-led information/guidance sessions (online/in person)

University academic subject taster sessions (online/in person)

Engage in online summer schools, volunteering, work experience, or MOOCs

Peer learning from university student ambassadors/recent alumni from your school

Follow UCAS and universities on social media

Useful resources

(Many of these may include references to a 'physical start' at university)

- Student Minds resources on [transition](#) and on [mental health during Covid-19](#)
- [UCAS chat with uni students platform](#) (UniBuddy)
- [The British Council](#)
- [UCAS resources for international students](#)
- [UKCISA](#) (UK Council for International Student Affairs)
- [Free Project skills MOOC](#), international [student blogs](#) and [international student ambassadors](#) (University of Bath)
- [Discover University](#) (University of Exeter) Facebook with subject specific sessions, and general advice and guidance sessions for accessing online
- [Greenwich Explore Free Online Courses](#) (University of Greenwich)
- Free MOOC on [preparing for university](#) (University of East Anglia)
- [Study sheets for EPQ](#) (University of East Anglia)

Questions for Slido

1. What do you do to support effective transition to HE in your community?
2. How can universities support you in engaging with this topic with your students?
3. What concerns do your students entering in 2020 have about the transition to university?

Contact us

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Thank you for listening

Join in the discussion on
Slido during 4 and 5 June