



Student Transitions: Example of transitions practice

Title: The UK Student Recruitment portfolio of presentations and workshops

Transition(s) the practice supports: aims to provide school pupils from P7-S6 with workshops and presentations to raise aspirations, levels of attainment and support the university application process all aiding the transition into Higher Education.

Abstract: Launched in 2009 under the title “What we can offer your school” the portfolio has been developed over 4 iterations to promote activities to schools located in Fife, the Lothians & the Borders. By promoting a suite of on-campus and in-school activities to guidance teachers and/or senior staff within local schools, the aim is to build and maintain strong relationships with local schools, engaging with potential students at an earlier stage of the decision-making to raise aspirations and to ensure effective transition into Higher Education.

Description: The current “What we can do for your pupils...” portfolio is divided into 4 distinct types of activity:

Presentations

Aimed at groups consisting of S5-S6 pupils and/or parents/carers, these four presentations are designed to provide information about the journey to university, the application process, student finance and money management and information for parents/carers.

Workshops

Interactive workshops for up to 30 pupils with a running time of 45 minutes to 1 hour, to fit into a standard lesson. Each workshop is designed for a specific year group and focusses on attainment raising, academic skills or STEM. Language skills and computing workshops have recently been added to the portfolio, to be delivered by ENU academics in a school environment.



enhancement
themes

Parents/Carers

Promoting the Edinburgh Napier University Information Stand, available for Careers Events & Parents' Evenings, along with the "Guide for Parents" & Student Finance & Money Management" presentations and web chats.

At our University

Promoting our on-campus activities such as Open Days and Campus Tours, and multi-school events aimed specifically at supporting transition into university including:

- Edinburgh Napier: As Seen on TV
- Build a Business in a Day
- S6 Inductions – Thinking ahead to your First Year at University

This multi-faceted approach allows for intervention at several points through a potential applicant's school career. In doing so, it is expected that potential applicants will not only be more inclined to apply to Edinburgh Napier University due to their familiarity with the institution, but will also be forearmed with the required skills and information to make their transition as seamless as possible.

Challenges that remain or have been overcome

Initial challenges included gaining traction within the schools. In many cases, this was due to the information not disseminating beyond the first point of contact in the schools. This was overcome by engaging schools in face-to-face meetings discussing the needs of the schools and being reactive to their feedback, and regular HTML mail-outs to promote upcoming activities, and suggest appropriate workshops for the time of year.

UKSR are this year trailing the S6 induction programme to deliver multiple workshops in one on-campus event, reducing staff resource in travel-time and multiple visits, while continuing to provide a first rate programme of transitional support. UKSR continue to develop ways to deliver this support whilst effectively and efficiently managing resource.

Lessons learnt

In the 5 years in which this portfolio has been running, local applications have continued to increase, and feedback from schools has been universally positive. Relationships with local schools have developed to the point where ENU are, for many, the first point of contact for guidance and transitional support, with many schools requesting services up to a year in advance.

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