

University of Aberdeen's Annual Academic Development Symposium

Student Transitions Workshop

*Fresh approaches to persistent problems: innovative case
studies in transition management*



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Persistent problems and challenges?

- Increasing student numbers
- Increasingly diverse student population
- Staff time constraints
- Student reluctance to approach staff
- Increased student expectations
- Financial pressures
- Curricular advances
- Technology

Persistent problems and challenges – the result

- Increasingly difficult to monitor students and identify potential issues early
- Time spent trying to stay on top of these challenges means less time for developing and invigorating the curriculum
- These factors impact on student experience and therefore on our output measures
 - e.g. retention figures, student satisfaction ratings, employability scores
- Are there methods we can use to overcome these challenges and improve across these performance measures?
- We will discuss several case studies that suggest we can.....

Case studies in transition management

1. Students 4 students
- peer mentoring as an approach to support and retention
2. Blackboard retention centre
- automated student monitoring and early warning system
3. Online skills support packages
- student designed skill development packages
4. Students as partners
- involvement of students in curriculum design

Students as partners

Recent projects:

- Mathematics support package
- Pharmacokinetic teaching and learning suite (2 projects)
- Medical science skills resource
- MSc skills induction course

Internships funds: LTEP and BPS teaching grants