

# Case Study Transition Survey

## 1. Bridging the Gap - Introduction

Bridging the Gap: Transition Research Project

### AIM OF THE PROJECT

The project is sponsored and funded by Newcastle University to learn about student transition from schools and colleges to higher education. The aim is to find out about the experience of transition for those planning to go to university and those already in their first year of university life, and whether improvements to the process can be made. This will be achieved by gathering evidence from a range of stakeholders including teachers, lecturers, Local Authority staff and students currently in secondary education and those students in their first year of tertiary education.

A significant element of the project will be the synthesis of knowledge already held about students in transition, and the impact of programmes to support them. Fresh data will be collected from Northumberland school applicants, from applicants in North East colleges and from students post-entry who have experienced pre-entry or induction programmes. The outputs will be in a range of communication media, to suit specific purposes.

### DATA TO BE COLLECTED

Data collection from staff and students who have engaged in activities to support transition to University, to evaluate the transition experience. This will be in the form of case studies.

### UNIVERSITY:

Individual interviews with: Course leaders/ project leaders with responsibility for student transition in each case study project.

Group interviews with: One group of 6-8 students in their first year of university life in each case study project.

### CONSENT AND WITHDRAWAL

The project team is committed to ensuring that data are collected only from those who are fully informed. All participants will be asked to confirm their consent. We will request consent to record all interviews. All participants and institutions remain free to withdraw at any point. The project has been cleared by the University Ethics Committee and the team will work consistently within the British Educational Research Association (BERA) Code of Ethics for Educational Researchers.

### DATA COLLECTION

The project conforms to the requirements of the Data Protection Act. All paper records will be kept securely locked. Electronic data will be password protected and only accessible by the project team. Data from all cases will be stored using school/college pseudonyms and individual roles only. No individual teacher, lecturer, LA staff and students will be named in any report of what has been learned.

### DATA USE

Data will be used in two ways. Individual organisation data will be analysed and fed back to the school or college. Individuals will not be named. Rather the role (e.g. learners, head of department, parent) will be used where necessary. As some identities may be discernible because of their unique role, complete anonymity cannot be guaranteed. This will be made clear to all participants. Case descriptions will be fed back to individual project. Both sets of data will be in the final project report. Pseudonyms and roles will be used rather than organisation or individual names. The identity of some organisations may be discernible and all participants will be made aware of this.

### CONTACTING US

# Case Study Transition Survey

Please feel free to contact the University research team at any time: Professor Ann Briggs, Principal Investigator [Email Me](#). Jill Clark Senior, Research Associate [Email Me](#). Ian Hall, Research Associate [Email Me](#).

Partners:

Gemma Kirkbride Undergraduate Recruitment and Admissions, Newcastle University. Claire King Northumberland County Council School Improvement Service

The project website can be found here: [Click here](#). Click 'next' to continue.

## 2. Transition activities at School/College

1. Please describe any activities you were involved in at school or college to help your understanding of university life, or to enable you to transfer to studying effectively at university? (These might include: host schemes, open day activities, study and support groups, mentoring or academic orientation programs).

2. If you described any transition activities in question 1 above, did they help you to understand student life?

3. Did any of the activities stand out as being particularly helpful in preparing you for university life?

4. Did any activities stand out as being particularly unhelpful in preparing you for university life?

5. Can you think of other programs or forms of support that you think would be useful?

6. What can schools and colleges do to make student transition from school/college to university more effective?

7. Overall, my school/college prepared me for university level study. These would be activities specifically designed to help you to settle in to university life and study. Induction may be a blindingly obvious term for us, but maybe not to all.

Strongly agree

Agree

Not sure

Disagree

Strongly disagree

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8. Please describe any induction related activities you took part in after the initial induction week.

## 3. University induction activities

9. Please describe any induction related activities you took part in during university induction week.

10. Did any of these activities stand out as particularly useful in helping you settle into university life?

11. Did any of these induction activities stand out as not particularly useful in helping you settle into university life?

12. Can you think of other programs or forms of support that you think would be useful during your university induction?

13. My school/College prepared me for university level study. Tick one only.

Strongly agree     Agree     Not sure     Disagree     Strongly disagree

14. The course induction programme helped me to feel that I belonged in this institution

Strongly agree     Agree     Not sure     Disagree     Strongly disagree

## 4. About you

15. Please enter your name and e-mail address in the boxes provided below. We only ask for this information for verification purposes. All responses to this survey will be anonymized.

Name:

Email Address:

16. What is your gender? Tick one only.

Male

Female

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17. What is your age? Once you've entered your age, clicking on 'Done' below will complete the survey.