

Induction, Transition and Retention

Supporting your students in the transition from school to higher education, between levels, and ultimately on the transition into employment can increase their confidence, improve their skills and make them more likely to complete their course.

As each institution and department is unique, the approaches around a successful transition for students can also be varied, however you might consider:

- Finding out about your students previous learning experiences – did they do A-levels or a Foundation Degree? Did they study biology, or chemistry and physics?
- Finding out about the type of assessments they may have experienced previously;
- Having activities to familiarise new students with the institution, such as library and lab tours;
- Giving feedback to students early on about their progress; and
- Making sure students are aware of what they will need to do to succeed on their course.

Further resources

Transition to Higher Education (2008) Short guide produced by the UK Centre for Bioscience. www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/ftp/resources/shortguides/transition.pdf

Our website contains more information on induction, transition and retention. www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/events/themes/itr.aspx

The **STAR project** (Student Transition and Retention) focused on the transition of students into and between levels in higher education. The outputs of the project include the STAR booklets, which contain a range of case studies highlighting transition practice, many examples of which are in the biosciences. www.ulster.ac.uk/star/index.htm

Understanding the UK Mathematics Curriculum Pre-Higher Education – a guide for Academic Members of Staff, outlines what students with given qualifications in maths are likely to know and be able to do. www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/ftp/resources/pre-university-maths-guide.pdf

Yorke, M. and Longden, B. (2008) **The first-year experience of higher education in the UK**. Higher Education Academy. This report looks at the reasons behind students leaving higher education before starting the second year of their course. www.heacademy.ac.uk/assets/York/documents/resources/publications/exchange/FYEFinalReport.pdf

The Scottish Enhancement Themes publication **Staying There: Transition and the First Year** includes the characteristics of an 'ideal' induction programme. www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk/themes/Guide_Staying_There_Home.asp

Scott, J. and Graal, M. (2007) **Student Failure in First Year Modules in the Biosciences: An Interview Based Investigation**. *Bioscience Education e-Journal*, volume 10. www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/journal/vol10/beej-10-c2.aspx

Grundy, S. (2008) **Successful Transition**. UK Centre for Bioscience Bulletin 23, p2. www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/ftp/newsletters/bulletin23p2.pdf

