

Dissemination Partner Case Study (3)

School of Sports Studies, University College Worcester

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Background

The University College have very good partnership arrangements with their local FE colleges. They have top-up degrees in Animal Care, Early Childhood Studies, Outdoor Recreation Management, Media, Public Services and Social Welfare. In addition students who achieve credits or distinctions at HND can move on to a number of degree programmes in the final year. The Sports and Leisure Studies and Sports Studies HND's are able to move onto a number of different Sports Studies degrees.

Good Practice

The School of Sport at the University College Worcester have very close working relations with their partner colleges and with Partner College students taking HNDs in related subject areas. The partner college students are encouraged to become part of the University and become accustomed to university life and facilities prior to completing their HND's. Worcester achieve this in a number of ways; firstly the students are taught both at the partner colleges and at the university, they are brought in regularly by bus from the partner college for lectures and to able to use the university library, secondly the university run a number of open day events where students considering progression to a top-up degree attend a number of event and lectures. In discussion with Worcester it was suggested there were two areas where they felt the SPAT materials could help. Induction of top-up students was one area and to this end they used the induction checklist. The second area however, was at the open day where they customised the pre planning form on what it means to a top-up degree.

The SPAT form provided a template for a more comprehensive and detailed form that included details on what to expect from a dissertation and what module choices would be open to them. Assessment on the use of this form cannot be fed back until after November as that is when they have the first open day. However, it was suggested that the form could potentially be very useful, as it would also form the basis or starting point for the transferring students to think about their dissertation.

Use of Materials

Two Resources were used:

The Induction Checklist – this was used with top-up students but also right across the board with all new entrants as they felt it was a useful idea.

The FAQ on top-up degrees has been reformatted and more information added particularly on the dissertation and what to expect from a final year top-up degree.

The Induction Checklist was adapted to Worcester's specific needs and the FAQ on top-up degrees was also adapted and customised to meet the School of Sports Studies particular needs.

John Deane suggested, *The generic info was useful and could be adapted to meet the needs of our particular project. We will continue to adopt the rest of the materials in the near future. We have change the timing of our open day in response to the materials as we feel that the earlier students are prepared for transfer or think about the consequences of progression the easier it will become.*

I thought the CD Rom and being able to download in word format was excellent. *This ease of use meant we were able to customise materials quickly and staff were willing to participate as it didn't require too much extra work.*

When asked what could be added to the materials the following ideas were put forward:

- Interviews with progressing students could be included plus other information from students for students
- PowerPoint presentation on how to use the materials.

Customised resources available on SPAT CD and website:

- Induction Checklist
- FAQ for Top-up students (need to chase up we don't have electronic version yet)