

Dissemination Partner Case Study (8)

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Background

The school has experience with a small number of top-up students coming from FE colleges, mainly into Year 2 of the Environmental Science honours degree. Some students also come from equivalent colleges in the Republic of Ireland, and others from other universities. There is also an internal HND (now Associate Bachelor) in Environmental Studies which is a progression route into Year 2 of either the Environmental Science or Geography degree.

Good Practice

The school has a well established induction week for 1st year students, including orientation sessions, library and computer inductions and a residential field trip designed to introduce students to some aspects of practical work relevant to their modules and to provide opportunities for students to get to know each other and some of the staff.

The university is active in the field of widening participation and has a 'Step-Up' programme, targeting 6th form pupils at schools with poor records for sending pupils to university. These students also receive extra support when they make the transition (98% of the first cohort of students went on to university), and this is an area to which SPAT materials might also contribute.

Use of Materials

The materials used were: M.4, M.5, C.2, S.2, K.2, I.2, M.2.

M.4 and M.5 were sent to incoming top-up students prior to the start of term. Specific induction was given for top-up students (Monday of second week of term). Difficulty that this has to be slotted in while full 2nd year timetable is operating.

Programme for Induction (1 hour):

Information – names of Head of School and Course Directors

Role of Studies Advisor (personal tutor)

Differences between FE and HE (structured around student version of P.7)

Use of library and computers – practicalities

Use of Open Resource Centre – a facility for students (workspace, computers, printer, photocopier)

Procedures for handing in assignments – where and how (cover sheet)

Plagiarism – need to avoid, how to avoid, leading to -

Referencing – system used in school – handout on Harvard system

Skills – who to ask for help

Handed out other materials with recommendation to look at and keep for future reference, particularly phone numbers and who to talk to.

Customised resources available on SPAT CD and website:

- Example customised materials