Skills for Learning | Case Studies

Working in partnership with the Library to help students make the transition to higher education and ensure that they have the basic tools and skills to develop as learners.

AIMS

- Prepare level 4 law students for studying at University
- To enable students to embrace their learning experience
- To empower students to ask for help when they need it
- To improve retention by fostering students' understanding of the University environment

"Nothing better than a head start! Thanks Salford" Student feedback

HOW DID WE EMBED IT?

- Get Going eLearning programme linked to Blackboard module area
- Get Going completion included in the module assessment portfolio
- 5% of the module grade allocated for completing the eLearning
- Completion date set for week 6 of the ELPRS module
- Data collected to monitor student access and completion rates

"I thought it was very useful and informative for anyone starting university" Student feedback

DATA

- 703 students across the University accessed Get Going between August and November 2016
- 253 (29%) of these students were from Salford Business School with Law students accounting for 175 (54%)
- 78% of the Law students who were directed to access Get Going did so by the deadline

"The University's Get Going Programme is designed to prepare new students for learning in higher education, to help them understand how it may be different to previous studies they will have undertaken. It informs and empowers new students to fully engage with the opportunities that studying at University offers and is a great way to lay the foundations for them to become independent learners. Embedding it in a level 4 module and setting a deadline of week 6 ensured that the students learned this introductory information during the first induction phase meaning that they were ready to move on and develop the more advanced information literacy and study skills needed as the module progressed."

Nicola Sales,
Academic Support
Librarian for Law

"This is useful because it gives useful pointers about the things you might need when you start University life." Student feedback

"It was important for me to ensure that potential barriers to learning such as understanding University terminology, how to study at University and how to get help were removed early on so that my students could focus on settling into their course and developing in the subject. Working closely with Nicola, the Academic Support Librarian for Law we explored how best to embed Get Going into my English Legal Process and Research Skills module.

Chrissy Patman,
Module Leader

We used Blackboard to deliver the material and encouraged a high completion rate by allocating 5% of the module marks to the material.

78% of my students completed it by the deadline. I believe that the approach has helped them to make the transition to studying in higher education, encouraging them to engage with their new environment to get the most out of their time with us. This is reinforced by positive student feedback.

"Really useful, looking forward to my new experience and getting help from you all when I need it" Student feedback

My main piece of advice to anyone considering using Get Going as part of academic induction is to fully integrate it into your module. Allocate a percentage of the module marks to it or use it as preparation for an information literacy and study skills session for example."

About Skills for Learning

Based in the Library, Skills for Learning is the University's one-stop-shop for study support. We offer a wide range of eLearning, study guides, videos and workshops designed to help your students develop essential study, information and digital skills. Our Academic Support team can help students find subject information and are on hand to answer their study and IT related questions. The Library also offers Wordscope, a ten week tuition programme that will help your students develop academic writing skills.
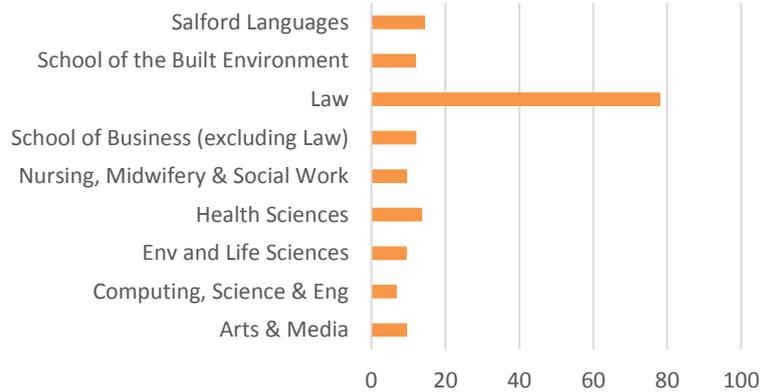
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% of level 4 students who completed Get Going by School

School	%
Salford Languages	~15
School of the Built Environment	~12
Law	~78
School of Business (excluding Law)	~12
Nursing, Midwifery & Social Work	~10
Health Sciences	~14
Env and Life Sciences	~10
Computing, Science & Eng	~7
Arts & Media	~10

Using Get Going in Academic Induction Group Activities

- Task small groups to study Get Going together
- Groups collobrate to feedback their learning
- Feedback activities can be used to form the basis for a wider discussion about learning at University
- Example feedback activites to encourage peer learning and sharing of experience include:
  - Populate a Padlet wall with the top ten things groups have learned from Get Going
  - Teams present on key features of different Get Going topics, sharing their learning with the wider group
  - Small groups select five sources of help detailed in Get Going and produce a map of where they can find help on campus
  - Group produce a poster outlining the key learning they have gained from Get Going and the things they would like to know more about