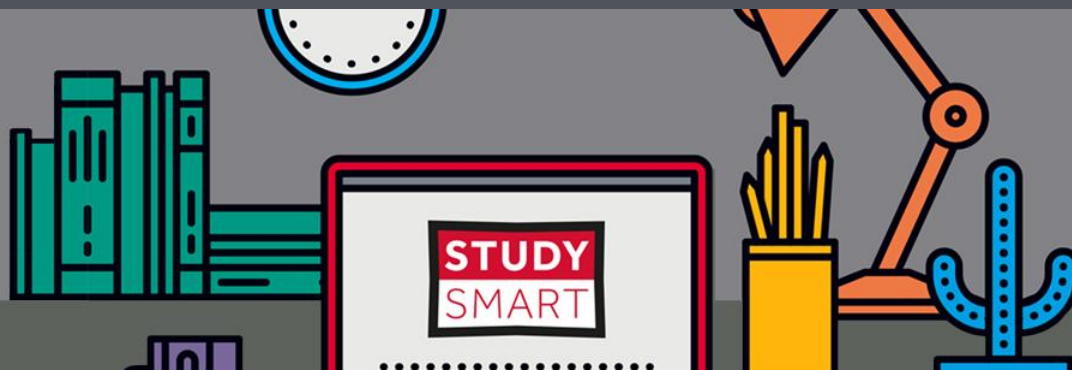


# STUDY SMART



## Supporting a Successful Transition to Undergraduate Study at the University of Reading

Nicky McGirr, Online Courses Programme Manager

Anastasia Rattigan, Senior Digital Learning Producer

# ISSUES WITH TRANSITION

## Potential issues facing WP students

- Lack of social and cultural capital
- Moving away from ‘champions’ / support networks
- Fear of not fitting in/belonging
- Different entry routes – not always A-level
- Other commitments and responsibilities

# OUR APPROACH

## Aim to:

1. Increase students' confidence in transition skills
2. Build a shared start point and sense of belonging

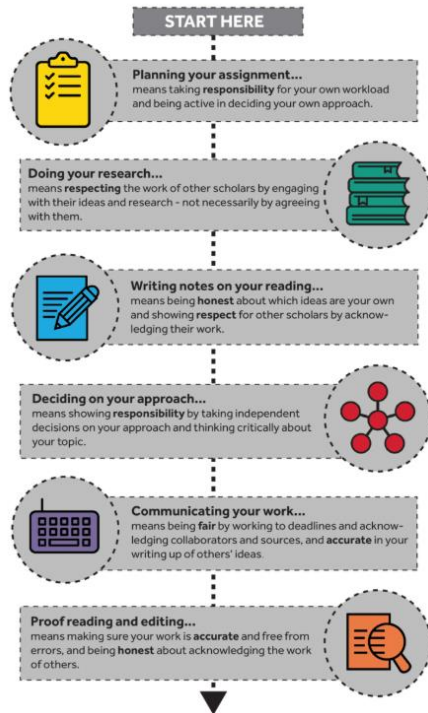
## By:

- Demystifying expectations / implicit assumptions
- Welcoming everyone to a university learning community
- Recruiting student mentors from a variety of backgrounds
- Featuring location specific videos, current students and staff

# NEED TO KNOW

- Pre-entry online course for Part 1 undergraduates based in Reading
- 3 ‘weeks’ of 3 hours each – 9 hours total
- Focus on 3 key areas of transition:
  - Academic integrity
  - Communication
  - Independent learning

# LEARNING JOURNEY



## First impressions

Starting university can be both an exciting and a daunting prospect and you may have lots of questions.

In this video, students Jake, Joseph, Laura, Natasha and Ola share their first impressions and experiences on arriving at the University of Reading.

What thoughts do you have about coming to university? Share your thoughts in the discussion area at the bottom of this Step. You can also 'Like' and 'Reply' to comments made by others.

To do
Activity
Progress

WEEK  
**1**

WEEK  
**2**

WEEK  
**3**

Hi Anastasia, here's the last step you visited:

2.2 HOW WILL YOU BE ASKED TO COMMUNICATE AT UNIVERSITY? DISCUSSION
Continue

WEEK 1: ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

**Welcome to the course**

Welcome! Meet the Study Advice team and fellow students, before finding out what topics you'll be covering over the next three Sessions, to help you get ready for university study.

ACTIVITY  
1

- 1.1 ARE YOU READY FOR UOR STUDY SUCCESS? EXERCISE
- 1.2 FIRST IMPRESSIONS VIDEO (04:59)
- 1.3 WELCOME TO THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY VIDEO (01:35)
- 1.4 INTRODUCE YOURSELF DISCUSSION
- 1.5 WHAT'S IT REALLY LIKE TO STUDY AT UNIVERSITY? ARTICLE

**Academic integrity**

What do we mean by academic integrity? Your studies at the University of Reading will be guided by a set of key principles and values. Find out what's expected of you as a student throughout your undergraduate career.

ACTIVITY  
2

- 1.6 BEING A UOR STUDENT ARTICLE
- 1.7 EXPLORE THE PRINCIPLES OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY VIDEO (03:41)
- 1.8 STUDYING WITH ACADEMIC INTEGRITY ARTICLE

# THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY



# THE STUDENT MENTORS

“I am really excited... I am also a little bit nervous”

“I was the same when I started...”

“Reading has a supportive atmosphere...”

“There are so many opportunities...”

“It is YOUR university experience”

# SUPPORTING EACH OTHER

“Thinking about a presentation as a conversation prevents my nerves...”

“...That’s a really interesting way...”

“Personally, I have quite a few issues...”

“So I’ll keep that in mind next time...”



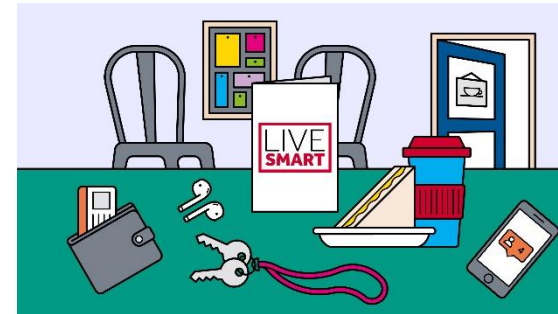
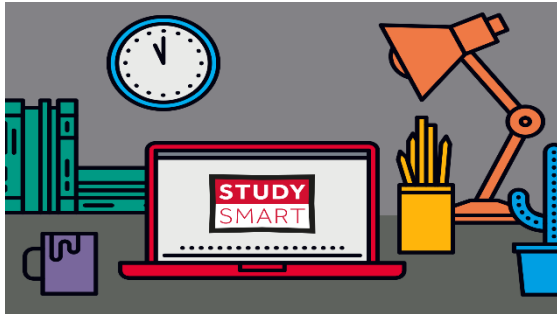
# MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- At least 70% of eligible students enrolled on the course (Aug – Nov 2018). Of those enrolled, 56.3% completed the course, with 64.1% completing 50% or more.
- 96% agree with the statement “*Having taken Study Smart, I now feel more confident about studying at university*”.
- 88% of students agree with the statement that Study Smart “*has helped me feel part of the University of Reading community*”.

# HELPING WITH TRANSITION

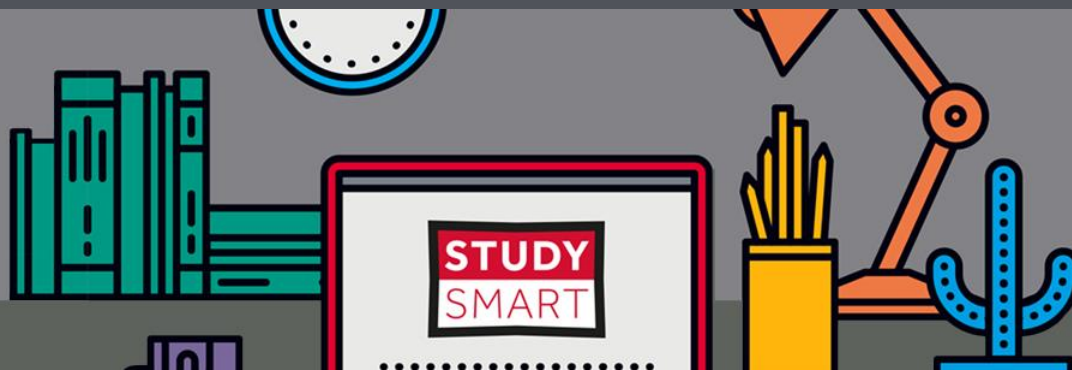
- “I've been out of education for over 6 years so I particularly found the information about paragraphs, grammar and punctuation helpful.”
- “...I've bookmarked pages so I can come back to them when I need to...”
- “I feel a lot less anxious about the academic side of things...”

# LOOKING FORWARD



What other topics/issues could we try to address through online courses, to help support transition to Undergraduate Study?

# STUDY SMART



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