

Blackboard Teaching & Learning Conference 2012

Hitting the Ground running; using Blackboard to provide transition support for new students

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Getting Started at the University of Lincoln




Access to Blackboard **prior** to induction.

- Aims:
 - Pre-enrolment contact with staff and students.
 - Reassurance and confidence building.
 - Easing transition into higher education.





Getting Started offers:

- Generic information about higher education.
 - Supporting getting organised for university.
 - Introduction to academic practices.
 - Course specific information.
 - Discussion forums.
 - Introduction to social media at Lincoln
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gettingstarted-1112 ('Getting Started' Main Site)

Announcements

'Any Questions?'

Living in Lincoln

Getting Organised

Academic Practices

StudentasProducer

The Library

Disability Service

Students' Union

Evaluation

Thinking Ahead

INSTITUTION **SITE** VIEW ALL

Announcements

Welcome all new students to Getting Started

Posted on: Thursday, September 8, 2011

Hello everyone; welcome to **Getting Started**. This site is all about offering information about coming to university and preparing for some of the academic practices you'll find here like writing assignments and making notes in lectures. If you have any queries please post them to Lindsay and James in **'Any Questions?'** (click the button on the left) who are answering from their own experiences as students here at the University. Don't forget to check out your Faculty Getting Started Site which may have more subject specific information for you. Any problems with links or anything you don't understand send me an email - I'm Sue Watling and you can contact me on swatling@lincoln.ac.uk

Site Link/'Any Questions?'/Any Questions?'

Posted by: Sue Watling

Posted to: gettingstarted-1112 'Getting Started' Main Site

Student comments

- It was a great 'keeping warm' strategy that made me feel part of the Uni before I even started.
- I found the discussion forum with previous students the most useful as you could ask almost anything and they were able to help from past experience.
- All of it was a great insight into my course and it was useful to get a 'heads-up' before freshers week.
- I found out more information about the university which made moving here a lot easier.


Blackboard and Social Media

- I personally like Blackboard because it keeps the academic side separate from the social group which is on facebook.
- I would probably get very distracted if a group was made on Facebook, people would pop up on chat etc, [you] waste a lot of valuable learning and consolidating time actually socialising on Facebook.
- The facebook page may become more socially-orientated as opposed to checking up on future work/reading for lectures, which is, after all, its [Blackboard's] main objective....:)



Getting Started Phase 1 – Pilot





- Small number of students
 - SQL Extract targeted students by Award
 - Students enrolled with ‘pre-reg’ role
 - Standard menu tabs set to invisible
 - ‘Getting Started’ environment set up to revert to standard view on enrolment
 - Default student password used
 - Issue with upscaling to larger student numbers
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Getting Started Phase 2





- Aim – more students and dual content
 - All students with an offer extracted
 - Enrolled onto generic and relevant faculty site
 - Created a shared landing page with site links
 - Snapshot changed: ‘available_ind’ field for enrolments controlled by Blackboard
 - Admin roles created for faculties
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Getting Started Phase 3




- Aim – all new first year students
 - Behind the scenes systems in place
 - Academic staff on board
 - New ‘non-Blackboard’ challenge
 - Next step: integration into existing enrolment and ‘welcome’ procedures for new students
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Getting Started 2012/13



- Getting Started promoted through enrolment
 - All students at 'pending' stage
 - Simplified password management
 - Additional use of Getting Started for enrolment processes e.g. Student ID card photographs
 - Integration into central processes offers a sustainable way forward
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Summary and the way forward

- Student experience begins before enrolment
- Proactive management of transition is key to student retention and success. Yorke, M and Longden B (2008) *The first year experience of Higher Education in the UK: final report*. York, Higher Education Academy.
- Holistic student experience on Blackboard
- Cross-institution collaboration essential.



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