

# Student and programme-led transitional support: a collaborative approach to supporting articulation

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## Edinburgh Napier University

- Largest number of articulating students in the east of Scotland
- Articulation agreements in place with institutions across Scotland
- Continuing to grow the number of programmes
- Transitional support is delivered by individual schools and the Widening Participation team
  - Associate Degree Programmes (college & university visits)
  - ‘Signposts to Success’ and ‘Getting Started’ induction days
  - Online resources: ‘Coming from College’ Moodle and ‘Get Ready’
- Programme-specific transitional challenges
- Co-created project to identify and meet these challenges

**Peter Tormey**  
Articulation Support Adviser

**Edinburgh Napier University**  
Coming from College



**Gary Donaldson**  
The Business  
School, 3<sup>rd</sup> year

**Associate Student  
Programme**



**Matt Muir**  
The School of  
Computing, 3<sup>rd</sup> year

Gary Donaldson

### **Articulating Business School Student Support**

- A closed articulating students' Facebook group was created in June 2016
- For Business School articulating applicants
- Coincided with a bespoke 'Getting Started' social event held on campus in June
- Social media page proved extremely popular



Gary Donaldson

10 August 2016

Hi everyone! I'm Gary. I met a few of you at the event earlier in the summer and looking forward to meeting everyone else during week 0. I am going into my 3rd year of Marketing Management and I was in your position last year - I entered 2nd year after spending a year at Dundee and Angus college. If I could offer one piece of reassurance it would be that everything will come together in your first few weeks. I was pretty terrified - that I didn't have my timetable/that no one would talk to me/that I wouldn't manage the workload/that everyone else was handling the countdown to the start of uni much better than me (and man... See more



19

10 comments Seen by 84



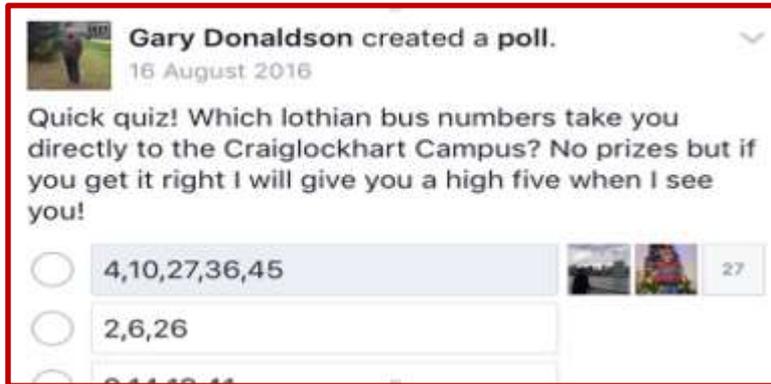
Like



Comment

## Making connections and building relationships

- Personal introduction
- Potential students felt more comfortable to introduce themselves
- Quickly an online community developed;
  - Resource to find information
  - Build friendships
  - Aided the transition to Edinburgh Napier University



## Wide variety of posts

- Freebies to help explore a new city
- Part-time job vacancies and employment opportunities
- Quizzes and polls





Also utilised popular hashtag **#MotivationalMonday**

... and featured many articles on mental health and preparing for university study



24  
AUG

### Let's get social!

Hosted by Gary Donaldson · Event for ENU/  
Business Schi...



Wednesday, 24 August 2016 at 14:00 UTC+  
about 5 months ago

The Three Sisters - Edinburgh  
139 Cowgate, EH1 1 Edinburgh, United Kingdom

A chance for everyone to get to know each other  
over some street food and drinks! The Three Si  
has really got into the festival spirit and their  
courtyard is full of street food vendors, pop-up



Gary Donaldson

20 August 2016

For those of you who can't make it to 'Let's Get  
Social!' on Wednesday we will be streaming live on  
this page from The Three Sisters from 1500hr to  
1515hr to give you a chance to join in! Of course, it will  
be far better to be there in person if you can so check  
out your event invites and click 'going!' Further details  
on the Facebook Live stream to follow next week!

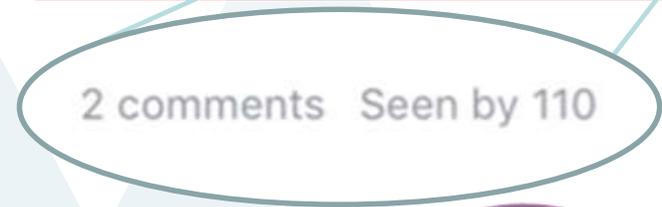


## Social Events

- A number of student-led social events were organised
- Solely via the closed social media group
- Excellent engagement
- Students from all over Scotland contributed
- Facebook Live helped to generate a sense of inclusion

## Online Group Dynamics

- Began to reach out to each other for advice and guidance
- The change in dynamics occurred;
  - As relationships developed
  - Especially evident towards the start of the academic year
- Questions the group-administrators had been answering were now being answered peer-to-peer
  - Often quicker
  - With reference to personal experience
  - Or with reference to specific programmes of study





Gary Donaldson

31 August 2016

Another productive and fun day as part of week 0!  
Great to see everyone socialising and starting to feel much more confident about university and all it entails! See you tomorrow!



## Online Group Dynamics

- 'Coming from College induction week 0' we continued to post but had taken a back seat by the end of the week
- Students were very complimentary of what we had done and praised the group as helping them transition smoothly into university
- The online group still exists but is entirely student-led

Intern  
run



Student-  
led

Matt Muir

## Associate Computing School Student Support

- Associate Student Internship for the School of Computing (SoC)
- Overhaul of existing Facebook group
- Creation of SoC Edinburgh Napier University account
- Regular updates of relevant information
  - Written by students for students
- Promotion of annual 'Let's Start' social event designed to ease transition between HND and third year at Edinburgh Napier
- Success! – over 150 participants in Let's Start summer event
  - Direct result of new PR strategy

# Associate Student Welcome Pack



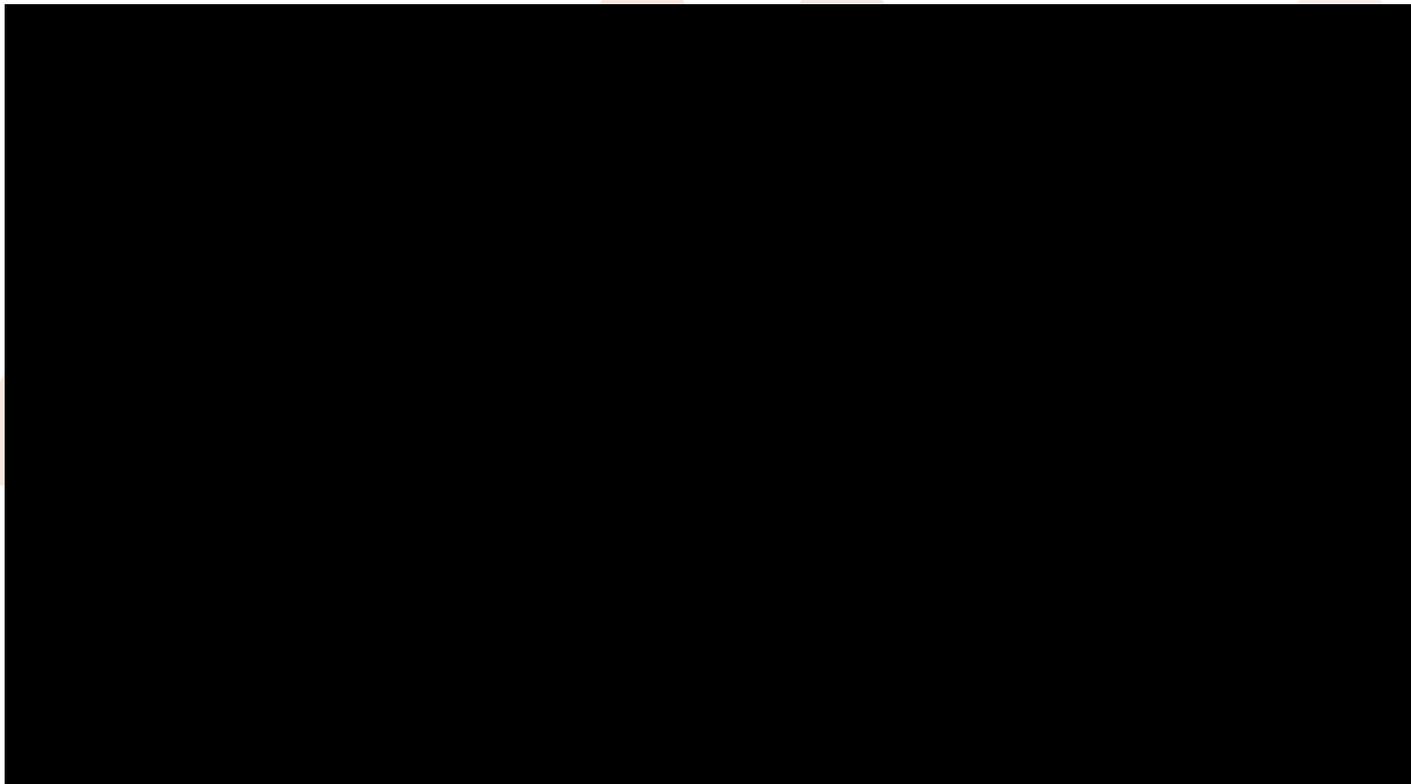
- Collaboration with fellow Graphic Design student
- Sent directly to household of college students
- Difficult to assess effectiveness but did result in more sign-ups to the Facebook Group
- More professional – impact
- Information about resources available to ASP Students
- Most importantly – requires little effort from student!

# Associate Student Programme

- Information was integrated on the University website
  - Reaching non-associate students
  - Promoting the programme to a wider audience for example HNC students
- A 'sign-up area' was created for potential students to receive more information (Welcome Pack)
- Information promoting the associate student programme
- Testimonials from current students
- Created a video promoting the programme and providing an insight



Edinburgh Napier University  
Associate Computing Programme



## Co-created transitional support

- Fostered early student engagement
- Aided transition
- Contextualised for specific programmes
- Greater student input
- Effect on retention?
- Improved results?

*'Before I attended the course, I was very anxious about starting university and I was fearful of the unknown. I feel the workshops in the course have helped reduce my feeling of anxiety. I now feel I will be starting university armed with information that will help me from day 1 and the unknown is now more known.'*

## Anonymised student feedback

*'This has become my number one stop for any queries I have and was particularly useful to see other people were just as nervous as me.'*

*'It introduced me to a lot of people on my course so I didn't feel as anxious and it clarified a lot of important details such as timetables, modules etc.'*

Questions?

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