



‘Getting Started’: using Blackboard to provide transition support for new students

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University of Lincoln

SROC Conference 2013

University of Lincoln

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Session Aims

- Identify the benefits of transition support for students entering higher education.
- Describe the ‘getting started’ initiative at Lincoln
- Share experiences and identify best practice.
- Consider the effectiveness of early preparation for academic practices.



Workshop format

1. Initial discussion - benefits of transition support(10 min)
2. Presentation (15 mins)
3. Small group discussion to consider the issues involved in providing transition support in own discipline or institution. (15 min)
4. Group feedback and discussion (20 mins)



Overview

- Getting Started; pre-enrolment support for student higher education experience.
- Pro-active management of transition key to student retention and success.
(Yorke & Longden, 2008)
- Access provided to all unconditional offers following A-level results day
- Generic site and College sites containing subject specific content.



QAA Institutional Review 2012

“The 'Getting Started' information pack and associated processes for new students is a feature of good practice. Students praised the pack, saying they had found it very helpful as they went through the admission and induction processes. The pack includes distance learning and applies to undergraduate and postgraduate students, both taught and research.”

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/InstitutionReports/reports/Documents/RG1091Lincoln.pdf>



Dimensions of transition support

- Practical information
 - Accommodation / finance etc
- Socialisation
 - Getting to meet other new students
- Adapting to HE
 - Understanding academic practice
- Early engagement with the course
 - Reading lists, activities
- Admissions and enrolment information
 - Reduce administrative load in welcome week

Home Page



UNIVERSITY OF
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Blackboard 2012/2013

Getting Started 2012

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The Library

The Library offers flexible work spaces including group and individual study areas, computer workstations, bookable group rooms and silent study. WiFi access and laptop loans are also available.

Use Find it at Lincoln to discover and locate Library resources. All electronic resources can be accessed on the Library pages via:
www.library.lincoln.ac.uk

You can contact us 24hrs a day, on: 01522 886222

[Click here](#) for more information about the Library.

Welcome to Getting Started!

This is your introduction to the University of Lincoln and Higher Education. Click the links below to go to the Main Getting Started Site or to your course related area.

- [Getting Started](#)
- ['Getting Started' 12/13](#)
- [Health and Social Sciences 'Getting Started' Site 2012/2013](#)

News Feed

- [Welcome to Getting Started](#)

ID Card Photos

You are not required to upload a photo before enrolment, this will be done at your scheduled enrolment event.

You will find further details on how to enrol at:
<http://www.lincoln.ac.uk/enrolment2012>




IT Support

The ICT department are here to provide your IT support while you are a student at the University of Lincoln.

If you have problems accessing IT systems, concerns of security, networking, printing or issues with your PC, MAC, laptop or just general IT questions the ICT department is here to help you.

[Click here](#) to go to the ICT Support site, here you will find information on how to contact us about problems or queries, and also find links and information about technology at the University of Lincoln.

Getting Started Main Site

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Blackboard 2012/2013


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'Getting Started' 12/13 gettingstarted-1213

Announcements

Edit Mode is: ☐ OFF


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Announcements

Welcome to the University of Lincoln
Posted on: Wednesday, August 15, 2012

Welcome to Getting Started on the Blackboard 'Virtual Learning Environment' (VLE) at the University of Lincoln. Congratulations on your achievement and we you wish all the best for an exciting and rewarding time while you study for your degree.

Getting Started aims to introduce you to Blackboard which is the primary online tool for teaching and learning at the university. Click onto the buttons on the left to explore the site and use the Any Questions? discussion forum to post queries on anything to do with preparing for your studies which is not included here.



^ 'Getting Started' 12/13 (gettingstarted-1213)

Announcements

'Any Questions?'

Getting Organised

Living in Lincoln

Academic Practice

StudentasProducer

The Library

Disability Service

Students' Union

Evaluation

Thinking Ahead

Posted by: Sue Watling
Posted to: 'Getting Started' 12/13 gettingstarted-1213

Subject Content

Health and Social Sciences 'Getting Started' Site 2012/2013 gettingstarted-HSS-1213

Social Sciences

Edit Mode is: ☐ ON ☒ OFF



Social Sciences



Welcome!

Welcome to the School of Social Sciences' Getting Started pages on Blackboard. Congratulations on securing a place at Lincoln University. We hope that the information provided here will be useful to you over the summer and we look forward to seeing you when you arrive in September!



Important- Criminology and Forensics Safety Equipment

Attached Files: [University Flyer A5.pdf](#) (85.849 KB)

An important message for all students enrolling on BSc Criminology and Forensic Investigation. Please see the attached poster about safety equipment for use in the labs. All students must order their equipment BEFORE 1st September. Instructions about how you can do this online are included on the poster.

If you have any problems with this please contact Sara Mann in the faculty office at smann@lincoln.ac.uk or 01522 886355.



Social Sciences Summer Task

We know that you are keen to get started on your new course, so we have created a set of tasks for you to have a go at over the summer. You can dip into whichever you are most interested as they all relate to some aspect of your course, no matter what you are studying. In welcome week you will spend some time with your Academic Tutor Group, and your tutor may ask you to discuss your thoughts on the tasks. But more important, they are designed to get you thinking about what's going on in the world around you from a critical academic perspective. Keep your eyes and ears open. Watch the news, read the papers and take it all in. You will be needing it!

Open this folder to get started!



Course Information and Queries

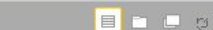
Below you will find a number of links to further information specific to your course. If you have any queries about your course then please feel free to email tutors directly (see staff contact details) however, please understand that many staff will be on annual leave over much of the summer period. Most staff will be returning to work at the beginning of September but if your query is urgent then please contact Sara Mann (our Faculty Officer) who should be able to forward your query to staff members who are available. Sara's email address is smann@lincoln.ac.uk.



Criminology

This folder contains information for the following courses:

Criminology - BA (Hons)
Criminology and Forensic Investigation - BSc (Hons)
Criminology and International Relations - BA (Hons)
Criminology and Politics - BA (Hons)
Criminology and Social Policy - BA (Hons)



^ Health and Social Sciences 'Getting Started' Site 2012/2013 (gettingstarted-HSS-1213)

Announcements

Health and Social Care

Psychology

Social Sciences

Sport & Exercise Science

Discussion Board

SITE MANAGEMENT

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Home Page 2013

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Enrolment and Getting Started 2013/2014

Step 3 - Find out more!

Now you have completed your photo and updated your details find out more about your course and about the University.

The main Getting Started site will help you prepare for study at the University of Lincoln, with advice on methods of study, best practice etc...

[Click Here to Get Started!](#)




College of Art - Your Guide

The College of Art is a happy place to be. [Click here to learn more about the College and your course.](#)

The College of Art consists of kjhkh kjhkhkjkhkj giuyojkhjhb ohiuhasf oihaiofsh alishfu asfkh ;kjasfkuh ;



jhasoihoasifnlkasf lknsflk alsjkijlkjaslkfjl aslfkjasf! kjasf



Students Union

The SU offers a wide range of services and activities to support you and enhance your student experience while at University. We offer support with welfare or academic problems, provide and support a range of sports teams and societies, facilitate new opportunities to learn new skills or develop old ones and work actively in the wider community.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



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Chat to us...

Tweets

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**UoL Sports Centre**
@UoLSC 5h
We also have Recreational Badminton 5-6pm Only £2 Just turn up with your staff or student card!
[Expand](#)

**UoL Sports Centre**
@UoLSC 5h
Evening Classes - 5.30 - 6.30 WLBC, 6.30 - 7.30 Zumba, 7.00 - 8.00 Boxercise, 7.30 - 8.15 Spinning. Just pop into reception to book!

**UoL Sports Centre**
@UoLSC 5h
Today's lunchtime class is Spinning 12.30 - 1.15pm Just turn up with your student or staff card! Only £2!

Find us here too...

You can also find the University on YouTube channel, Facebook and on the main UoL Twitter feed!





Research findings

- Over 2000 potential students accessed Bb.
- Over 650 responded to the survey
- **What did students like?**
 - Getting Organised.
 - Introduction to Academic Practice.
 - The Library.
- **What did students want?**
 - Reading lists and Activities.
 - Contact with existing students and staff.
 - More help with using Blackboard.



Institutional issues

- Using technology to enhance student transition into university requires:
 - Buy-in from Senior Management.
 - Technical Systems and Helpdesk Support.
 - Departmental / College leads.
 - Guidance for programme level content.
 - Clear navigation to subject content.
 - Staff and existing student engagement across the Summer.



Quotes

- ‘By introducing a ‘Getting Started’ package it made settling into uni here so much easier.’
- ‘It was a great ‘keeping warm’ strategy that made me feel part of the Uni before I even started.’
- ‘Helped to calm me down and think rationally about what uni was going to be about.’
- ‘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.’



Group Questions

- **VLE or Not?** What are the advantages and disadvantages of using an institutional online learning environment compared to Facebook or another freely available social media site?
- **Key issues?** From your own experience, identify areas students find challenging in the first Semester.
- **Solutions?** How might support be presented to students prior to enrolment; e.g. book lists, websites, self-diagnostic tests, discussion forums, contact with an existing student.
- **Any other issues?**



References

- Lefever, R. and Currant, B. (2010) *How can technology be used to improve the learner experience at points of transition?* University of Bradford. Available at:
<http://technologyenhancedlearning.net/files/2010/04/ELESIGliteraturereviewFINAL240210.pdf>
- Watling, S (2009) 'Getting Started' Pre-Induction Access to Higher Education'. In T. Bastiaens et al. (Eds.), *Proceedings of World Conference on E-Learning in Corporate, Government, Healthcare, and Higher Education 2009* (pp. 2232-2235). Chesapeake, VA: AACE. <http://editlib.org/p/32798>
- Watling, Sue (2009) [*Pre registration opportunities for social work degree students*](#). 11th Joint Social Work Education Conference (JSWEC) and the 3rd UK Social Work Research Conference, 8-10 July 2009, University of Hertfordshire.
- Yorke, M and Longden B (2008) The first year experience of Higher Education in the UK: final report, York, HEA
<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/assets/York/documents/ourwork/research/surveys/FYE/FYEFinalReport.pdf>