Understanding the challenges facing students in transitioning to university

Conference Paper · June 2017

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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

Please complete this abstract submission form and save in PDF format before uploading to EasyChair at https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=stemhorizons17
The deadline for submissions is 31st March 2017

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| Title of your presentation/session: | Understanding the challenges facing students in transitioning to university |
**Presentation type: what is your preferred format?**
- Poster presentation
- Oral presentation (20 mins)
- Workshop (1 hour)
- Virtual presentation (5-minute “flash” video or poster, available for international submissions)

| Workshop |

**Are you interested in submitting a full paper based on your presentation after the conference? (2000-4000 words). Deadline 30th September.**

| Yes |

**Student presentations: are students partners in this work?**
- Student-led presentation
- Student as co-presenters
- Student as co-authors

| Yes (Student as co-presenters; Student as co-authors) |

To support the conference aims of **Making Connections, Innovating and Sharing Pedagogy**, the conference committee welcomes submissions that fall **either** within the following broad educational themes **or** discipline areas. Please indicate whether your work fits in the pedagogic/innovation themes of the conference which may be of interest to all STEM colleagues or whether it is subject specific of interest to a discipline-based audience.

**Themes: Which of these themes does your presentation address?**
- Open Education
- Enhancing the student experience
- Students as partners in teaching and research
- Reward and recognition
- International perspectives on STEM education

| Enhancing the student experience
| Students as partners in teaching and research |

**OR: Discipline: Which discipline is your proposed presentation situated?**
- Biological Sciences
- Computer Science
- Psychology
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Earth Sciences
- Engineering
- Mathematics

| Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Pharmaceutical Sciences
| Research findings will be presented but otherwise workshop will be relevant to all disciplines |
Challenges exist in ensuring a connected transition to higher education that it is not only inclusive but is a positive experience. There is also a national disparity in university attainment whereby the proportion of White students graduating with good degrees is significantly higher than those from Black, minority ethnic (BME) groups. On the contrary, in schools, BME attainment has been improving since 2006/7, and achievement gaps between ethnic groups and the national level have disappeared with many groups. There can be wide ranging and significant differences in prior experiences, sense of belonging/expectations, student homogeneity and preparedness that can compound successful transition. Exploring the variable transitional experiences between different cohorts of students from school/college to university to identify patterns that may lead to a more in-depth understanding of transition to university is important. Therefore, this workshop will explore the recent findings of a research project entitled ‘Understanding the challenges facing students, particularly BME, in transitioning to university’ and seek through shared experiences with delegates the barriers and enablers in creating a better positive transition to higher education that permits a greater sense of belonging and meets our student’s expectations.

Please provide a summary of your abstract – maximum 50 words to be used in advertising the sessions and encouraging audience engagement

This interactive workshop will aim to give delegates a greater understanding of the challenges facing students transitioning to university, identifying the enablers for a positive experience and those that create a greater sense of belonging.

Equipment/session requirements – ONLY complete this section if you are submitting an abstract for a workshop and know what equipment you might need which we will try our best to accommodate. NB: Short oral presentations will have the usual IT facilities i.e. PC/laptop, projector facilities and access to the internet. Virtual presentations will have similar display facilities; more details to follow.

Flipchart, computer with internet access, post its