

Steps for Success

A BSU and SSU collaboration



To cover

- ✓ Origins of the project
- ✓ The working group
- ✓ Dissemination of resources and tasks
- ✓ Session content
- ✓ Feedback
- ✓ Future development
- ✓ Lessons learned



The team

Laura Johnston
BSU

Norah El-Gohary
BSU

James Hannam
SSU

Simon Birch
Wiltshire
College

Kim Ang
BSU

Rachel
McCulloch
SSU



Dissemination of resources and tasks

Aim 1: To help students prepare for the transition to University

Aim 2: To support skills relevant to academic study

SSU 23.01.2025

Day 1: Group Work & Student Life

James: Plagiarism and Music CPD

Feedback, Data and Evaluation

BSU 06.02.2025

Day 2: Independent Study & Student Life

Norah: Research Methods

Materials and PowerPoint Branding

Session One

Group work - Rachel



Group work (1hr 30- 2hrs)

Part 1:

- 10 minutes: Ice breaker activity
- 30 minutes: Lego group activity
- 30 minutes: General introduction of university level work
- 30 minutes: Music and Plagiarism (James)

CPD for staff (1hr)

- Music Careers: Pathways and jobs in the industry (James)

Session Two

Independent Study – Laura and Kim



- 5 minutes: Recap previous session
 - 10 minutes: Timetable planning
 - 15 minutes: Presentation of support available and life at university
 - 15 mins: Research task
 - 5 minutes: Reflection on task
-
- 45 mins: Research and referencing methods (Norah and James)

CPD for staff (1hr)

- Research methods and university assignments (Norah and James)

Feedback

Session	Attendees	Feedback
Day 1	14	13 qualitative feedback – all positive
Day 2	12	11 qualitative feedback – all positive

"Very helpful in terms of practical examples and teamwork. Eye opening into the world of plagiarism"

"The event was really enjoyable. It was thought out and interactive which made you stay focused and pay attention towards the end"

"I thought this event was fun and informative and allowed me to have an insight into multiple aspects of University"

Feedback



"I'm used to attending recruitment fairs where it feels like all of the universities are very much in competitive mode..."

...It was a privilege to work with the highly organised team at Bath Spa. And through working with Norah as a psychology lecturer, it was beneficial for me to learn about research methods in the social sciences....

...It was great to present to staff at Wiltshire College as well. It's always nice to receive positive feedback from fellow teachers who have gained something from a project. It came at quite a busy time of year when we were just starting our second semester. But that's easily resolved in terms of finding a mutually suitable time for future iterations...

...Overall, I'd highly recommend being involved in partnerships such as this. It can enhance your practice and also introduce you to new colleagues within the sector..."

James Hanam

Project Development

- Offer it to other target colleges
- Ensuring the right audience
- Tech resilience
- Pre and post surveys on post cards
- Host a larger event at either campus



Lessons learned

- It benefits the students, college staff and university staff to work collaboratively
- Play to your team's strengths
- Provide added value
- Be interactive
- A great working relationship is possible across competing universities



Advice summary

- We would suggest networking and socialising at any group event to lay the foundations of friendship and respect. This ensures that if you do end up doing collaborative work, everyone starts from a positive place.
- We found coordinating academics, outreach and recruitment staff challenging so we gave the project plenty of time, this helped with relationship management and setting expectations. Also, allow each University or team member to use their strengths.
- CPD provides a brilliant buy in from colleges and supports good working relationships, especially if you can bring the academics to the college campus!
- We would recommend at least half of the programme to be activity focused as we found students were remarkably more engaged in the content.
- Consider that if you run the event over two separate days, the audience might not be the same. Ensure that you check with college staff and make your programme accessible as a standalone if needed.



Contact:

laura.johnston@bathspa.ac.uk

rachel.mcculloch@solent.ac.uk