



Student Transitions: Example of transitions practice

Title: Aberdeen University Students' Association Leadership Academy

Transition(s) the practice supports:

The Leadership Academy was developed by Aberdeen University Students' Association (AUSA), to support students from all disciplines by helping them to learn about, and develop, their transferable skills. Although initially aimed at current student leaders, the programme has been of interest to students at all levels (both undergraduate and postgraduate) who have the desire to develop their transferable skills and learn about becoming a great student leader. As such, the programme supports transition of students throughout University but also beyond University as students move into employment.

Abstract:

Being a leader is not an easy task; making decisions, working under pressure, leading a committee or team, running a society/club/student group, organising trips, competitions and events, trying to do the best, being successful, hoping to exceed in expectations, and all of that while going to university. The Leadership Academy was set up by AUSA to support engaged student leaders, helping them to enhance their skills and giving them the confidence to successfully lead their team. We wanted to give them more opportunities to develop skills that will help them achieve the best outcome in their current role as well as in their future careers and in life beyond University. In short, the aim of the Leadership Academy is to help students 'become the leader you aspire to be'. More information can be found at: <https://www.ausa.org.uk/societies/leadershipacademy/>

Description:

In the University's Strategic Plan for 2015-2020 it is highlighted that our University provides an environment that will 'empower our student community to thrive', with the goal of teaching our students 'independence and responsibility of thought and action', and wants every Aberdeen student to 'grow as an active citizen, acquire leadership skills to help them succeed in future life course'.

This is exactly what we want to achieve at the Leadership Academy.

In October 2014 the President for Societies and Student Activities, Veronika Hofmann, and her team at AUSA started the recognition and skills development program 'Leadership Academy'. This is aimed at student leaders who are involved in running activity groups within AUSA (societies, sports clubs, student media) and is designed to support them in their leadership role, help them to develop as a leader and give them recognition for the fantastic work they are doing. Without their dedication the student experience at Aberdeen would not be the same.

The Leadership Academy puts on high-quality workshops for students and invites experts from all over the UK to talk about how students can enhance and improve their skill set gained through their current role. Additionally we want to empower our students and show them how to promote and market themselves as well as learn new skills that help them 'become the leaders they aspire to be'.

Although the Leadership Academy was originally aimed at undergraduate students this has been broadened out after a huge level of interest from postgraduate students in Freshers' Week 2015 who signed up to the Leadership Academy and attended the workshops. Also, as a new incentive this year we are planning not only to support current student leaders but are opening up the Leadership Academy to 'future leaders' who just need that 'extra push' to be empowered. We will offer self-confidence workshops and support students to overcome their fears of taking on a project or starting something new and, by building their confidence, encourage them to become a leader themselves.

Workshops for 2015/16 (so far):

Effective Intercultural Communication (October 2015)

Say it like Obama - Public Speaking (November 2015)

Learn to think outside the box – make alternative business models work (November 2015)

Elevator Pitching – quick & successful! (November 2015)

Setting up a business – 101 (February 2016)

Employability Week 2016 (8th-12th February 2016)

Self-Confidence Workshops (Feb/March 2016)

Workshops for 2014/15 included:

Motivational Skills

Negotiation and Influencing Skills

Applying like a CEO – how to use your current role to rock that job application

Employability Week 2015 (Feb 2015)

People Skills - Workshop With Barclays Bank's LifeSkills Programme

Leadership Academy Graduation and Awards

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All examples provided will be posted to the Enhancement Themes website with the intention of including them in the National Transitions map.