

DEVELOPING A DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT TO ENHANCE THE PRE-ARRIVAL EXPERIENCE: TRANSITION INTO HIGHER EDUCATION



Dr. Samia Kamal
Principal Lecturer for Student Experience
Department of Computing and Communication Technologies
Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment



RATIONAL



Many students feel underprepared for higher education, and find that their academic experience is not as they expected it to be, and this may lead to early withdrawal.

(Richardson, 2003; Forrester, 2004; Long and Tricker, 2004; Quinn, 2005)

Pre-arrival interventions contribute to improving retention and success in HE in the following ways:

- a) providing information, knowledge and skills to improve pre-entry decision making and retention;
- b) developing expectations and academic preparation pre-entry to enhance transition, retention and success;
- c) fostering early engagement to promote integration and social capital.

(Thomas, 2011)

RATIONAL

For many students the 'academic shift' from studying at school or college level to studying at a higher level can be very challenging, indeed many experience a type of 'academic culture shock.'

(Quinn, 2005).

Students who did not feel that they understood the differences between learning at school/college and higher education were far more likely to think about leaving (62%) than those who felt they did understand (35%).

(Project 5)

What Works? Student Retention & Success



Building student engagement and belonging in Higher Education at a time of change:

final report from the
What Works? Student Retention & Success programme

Staff in HEIs agree that many students do not know what is expected of them when they arrive at university, and that they can play an important role to help students understand course and institutional expectations.

(Project 4)

TIME TO RETHINK

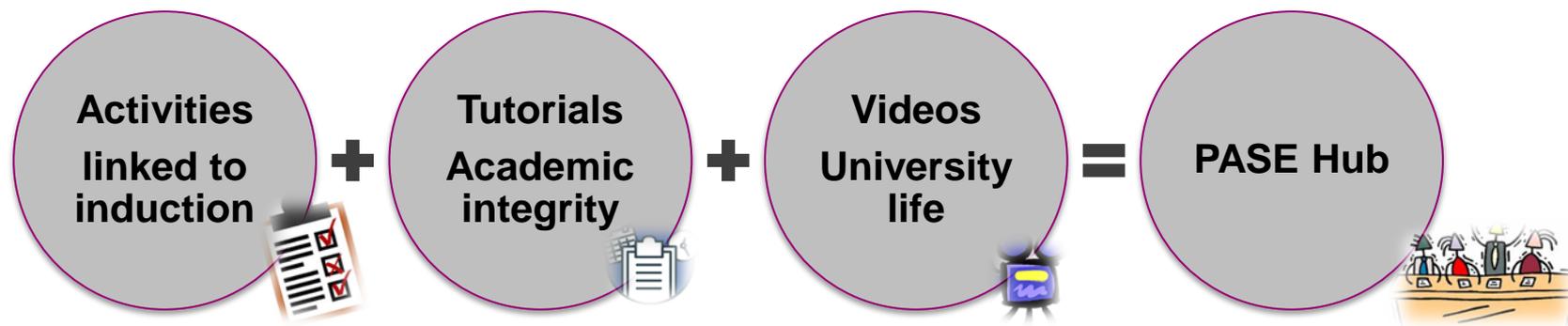
PASE Hub is about engaging students via subject specific activities before they arrive at OBU to start their degree programmes.

Help students engage with the course content earlier on and also be part of a programme specific learning community.

Foster independent learning.

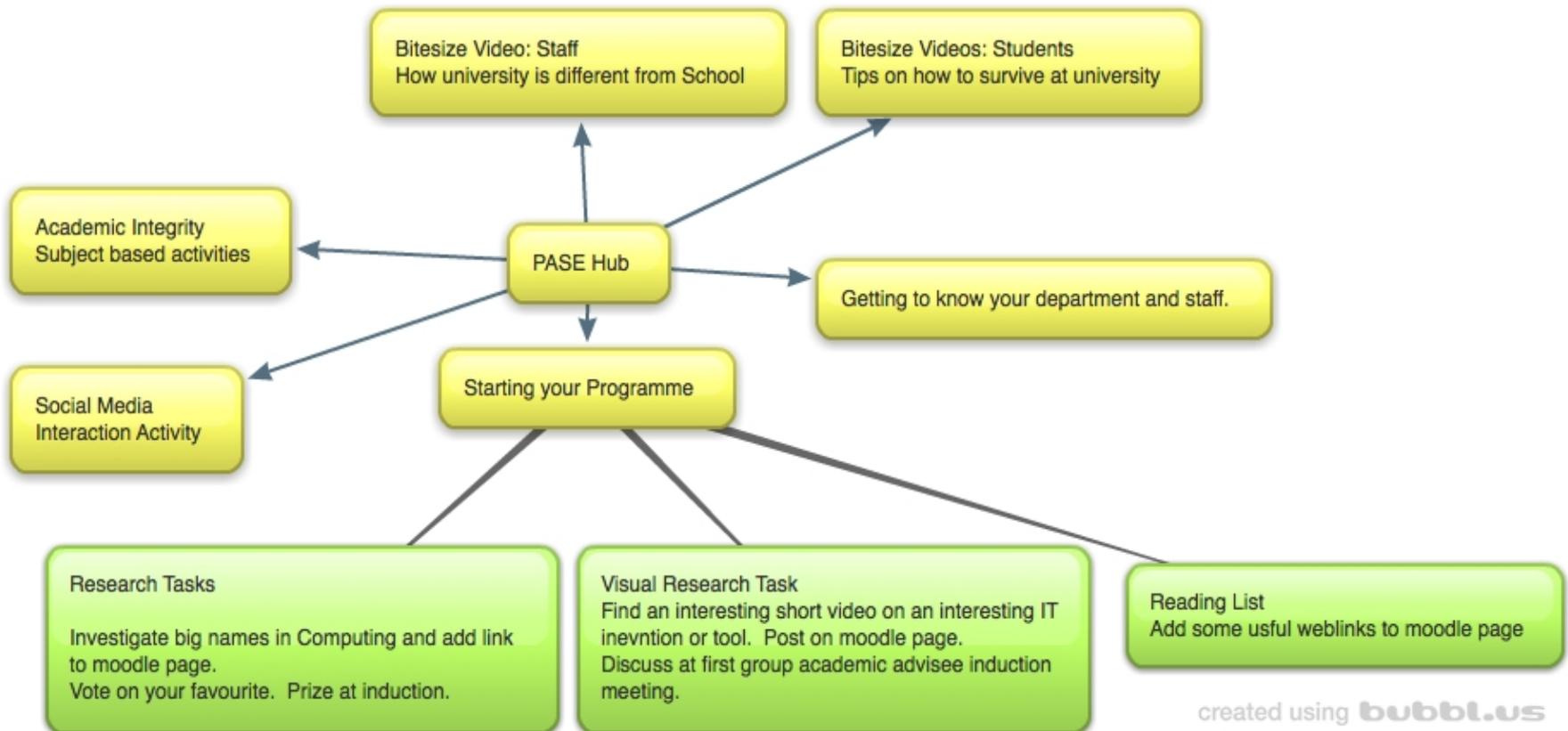
No formal process by which students can engage in subject specific activities before they start their degree program.

PASE Hub pilot developed in the department of Computing and Communication Technologies (CCT) in TDE.



HOW IT WORKS

Structure



HOW IT WORKS

Content

HELLO NEW STUDENTS

We are delighted that you will be joining our friendly community of students and staff at the department of Computing and Communication Technologies (CCT).

University is a special time and this WebApp will help you to get familiar with some aspects of university before you start. One of the key skills that you will learn at the university is how to research independently and locate useful information from various credible sources. Your pre-induction tasks are designed to get you looking for information by completing a couple of research tasks and completing a tutorial.



INFORMATION

View a short video on tips to survive in university.

KEY CONTACTS

Get to know your dept. staff ahead of time.

RESEARCH TASKS 2

Participate in exciting research task.

READING LIST

During your course you will have some reading to do, so perhaps you can get browsing.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Go through a small interactive tutorial to learn about Academic Integrity.

PASE actively engages students rather than being a passive process of providing information.

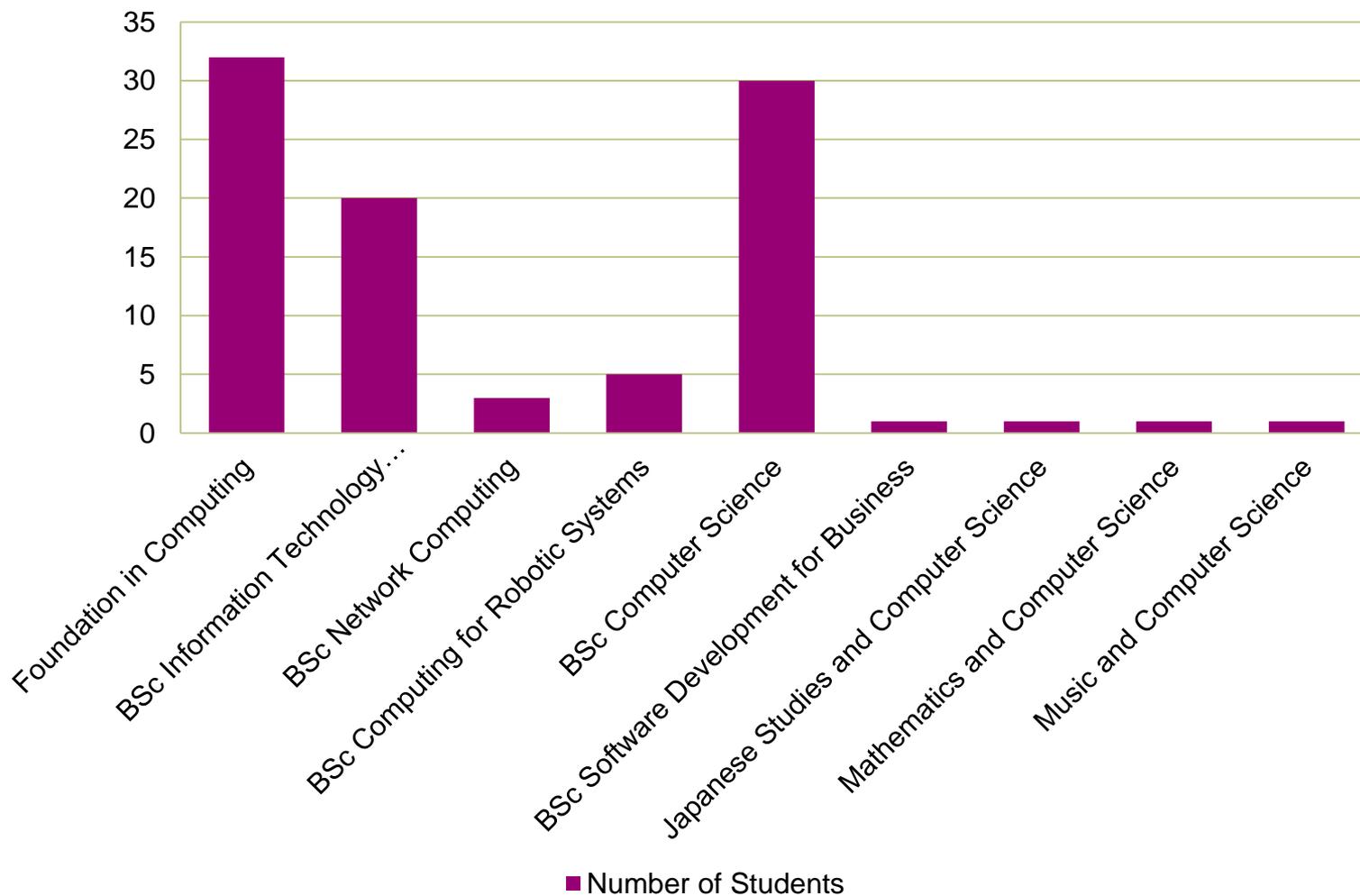
The activities allow students to make friends, get to know the academic staff, understand the expectations of the university, department and programme and develop academic skills.

The students are expected to spend 2 hours to complete these activities.

These activities and competitions are linked to the induction program.

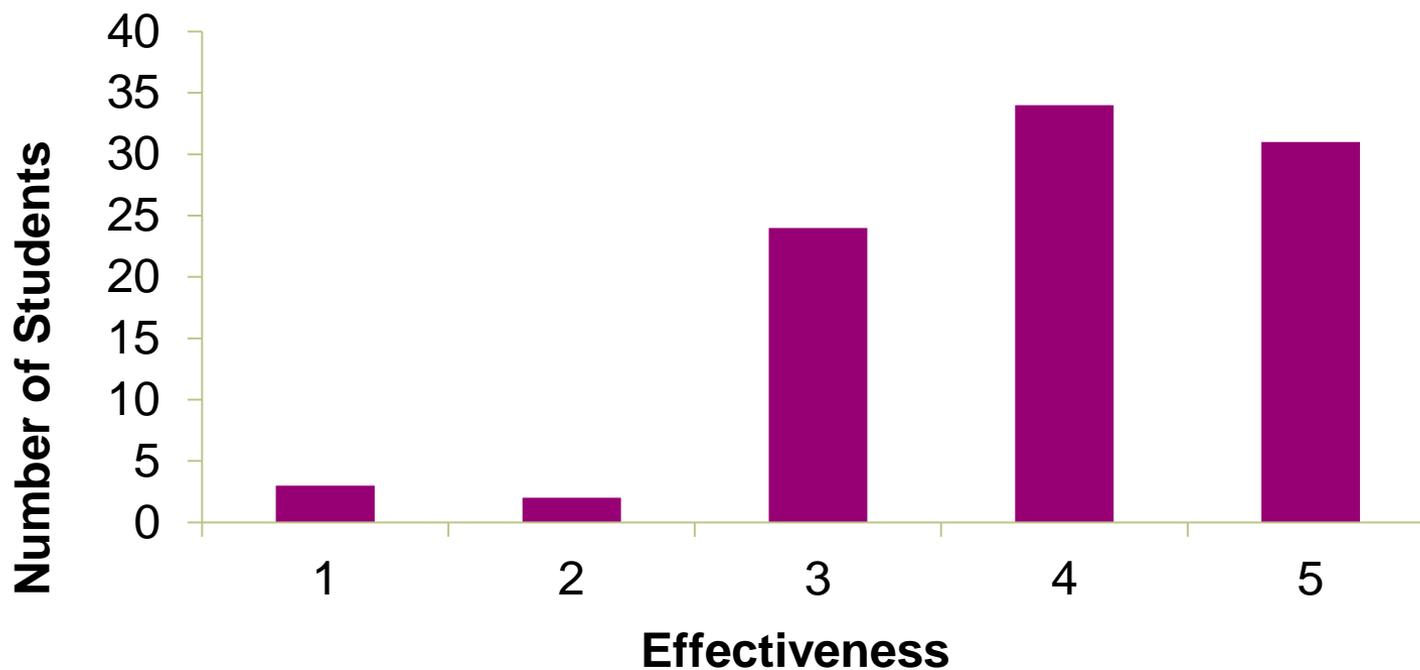
ANALYSIS & FEEDBACK

Number of Students Engaging with PASE Hub



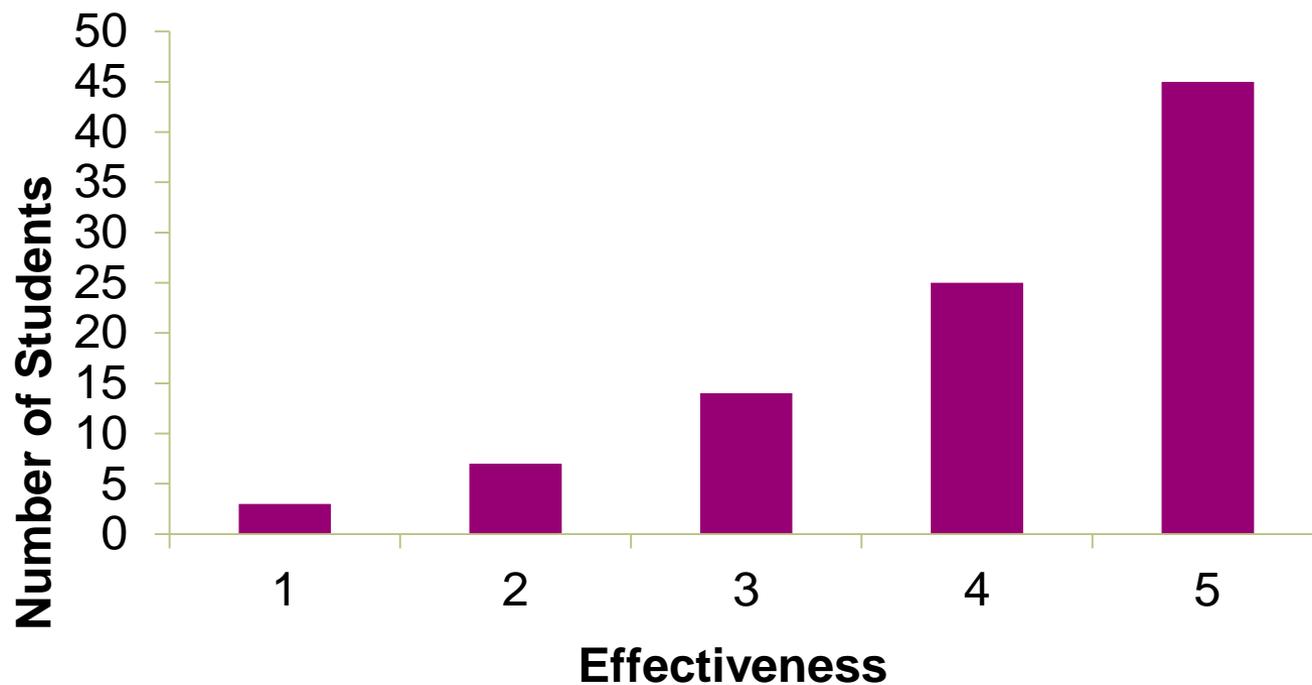
ANALYSIS & FEEDBACK

PASE Hub helped in understanding CCT student life



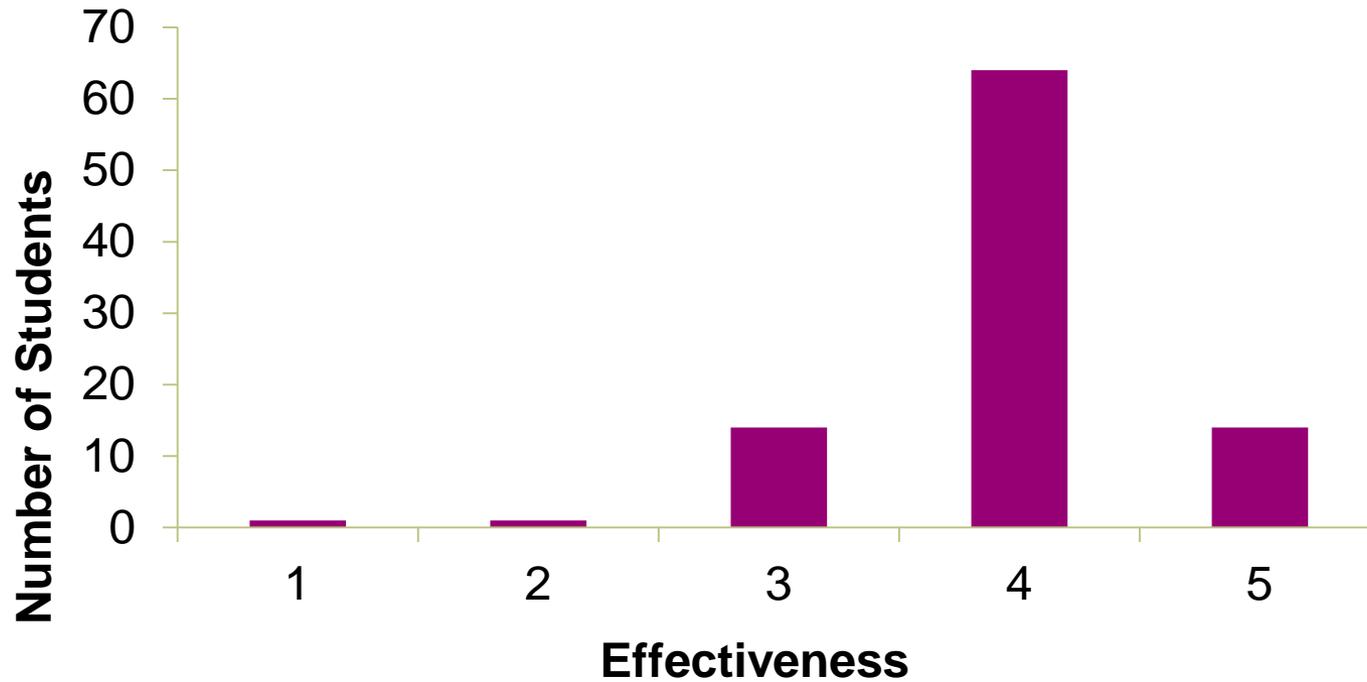
ANALYSIS & FEEDBACK

PASE Hub activities were useful

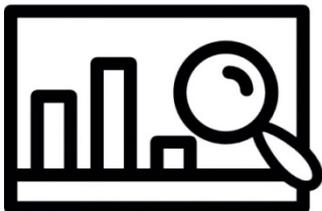


ANALYSIS & FEEDBACK

PASE Hub helped you engage with your Course



OBSERVATIONS



Both anecdotal evidence and formal evaluations indicate that the PASE hub is effective and valued by staff and students alike.

- Better understanding of 1st semester student drop-out.
- Improved induction/orientation and pre-arrival planning and delivery.
- More personalised approach to pre-arrival and induction.
- Improved course information, advice and guidance.
- Improved student satisfaction.
- Better targeted support.