

Evaluation proforma

Faculty/Directorate	STEER
Department/area	STEER
Project title	Developing the Experience of Extended and Foundation Degree Students
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Abstract including action research (or other project), working hypothesis, info from theory of change, change which is anticipated etc. (Around 250 words)	This project aims to create a cross-university network that is interested in understanding and developing the experience of Extended and Foundation degree students. It is envisaged the network will provide a space to share and enhance knowledge and experience that will improve transition, retention, outcomes and progression onto an undergraduate course.
How students are being involved	Yes, throughout the project. We had a Student researcher to support the project.
How project is being evaluated	<p>A process evaluation will be undertaken in which staff will be asked to reflect on the usefulness of the sessions and how they think they can use what they have learnt in their own context, and how they can support the network going forward.</p> <p>These reflections will be included in the SIG progression document that will go to the Hallam Guild at the end of the project.</p> <p>The literature review will be disseminated through the SIG and via the Hallam Guild On-line and Journal providing access to a larger audience. Initial findings and recommendations from the scenario planning workshops will be reported to the SIG and Hallam Guild to guide future activity. It will also be written up so it can be available via Hallam Guild On-line and Journal providing access to a larger audience. However, it is hoped that some additional workshops will happen in the next academic year to increase the long term benefits and impact.</p>
Key things What's worked well? Have you achieved what you set out to do? If not why not? What have been the Highlights?	<p>We have successfully set up a cross-university network of staff, that are beginning to develop relationships with each other outside their departments, share and develop their practice.</p> <p>The launch event for the Special Interest Group: Foundation Year was very well attended by staff from across the university. It also had the support of the Provost, Hallam Guild Director and Academic Director which helped raise its profile. Staff feedback showed/highlighted how crucial it was to have them attend because staff often feel like they do not have support in their own Faculties.</p> <p>The Guild funding also paid for Hallam staff to attend the Foundation Year Network Annual Conference in Nottingham. The conference was seen as highly beneficial by those that attended, and said it really helped them to think about their teaching practice and how they develop the Foundation Year provision. Colleagues who attended the conference are going to share what they learnt with other Hallam peers at the next SIG meeting. We have also put in a tender for the national conference to be hosted at Hallam in 2019.</p> <p>The literature review is finished and will be put onto the Guild website</p>

	<p>when it is available. The literature was limited, but we still think this will be a useful tool for staff to use when developing their courses or research projects.</p> <p>In response to colleague's feedback we have also convened meetings to discuss a coordinated approach to research around the Foundation Year experience, student transition/progression, long term outcomes, retention, and belonging. These were exciting and energetic meetings as staff discussed collaboration and how they could improve the student experience.</p> <p>Scenario planning workshops with staff and students. This element of the project was more challenging. After the ethics approval had been received we were well into the summer break. It was also very challenging getting a student sample that included all students that were still at Hallam that started their journey on a Foundation Year. Recruiting students for the workshops was also very problematic because of the timing; numbers were so low it made the exercise unviable. However, it is felt that the research planned by the SIG colleagues will provide much more interesting and insightful findings as it will be led by the course and module leaders.</p>
<p>Barriers</p>	<p>The timing of the project over the summer break caused some challenges as staff and students were away from the university.</p> <p>SIG events were sometimes challenging to organise because of the availability of staff, as they have other work commitments and different work patterns. Staff are really keen to come to events but often feel unable to because of other priorities.</p> <p>The value of Foundation Year courses in each Faculty varies, so there is a different level of support for staff in each faculty which affects their engagement.</p>
<p>Enablers</p>	<p>The Guild involvement has helped raise the status of the SIG and David has provided much needed support and advice long the way.</p> <p>The funding was very beneficial, especially in relation to the national conference. One staff member commented that it was the only staff development they had received since working at SHU. It really empowered the Hallam staff that attended.</p> <p>Senior management attendance from the Provost, Hallam Guild Director and Academic Director at the launch event was seen by staff as highly beneficial as it made them feel valued and listened to.</p>
<p>Replicability, transferability, scalability</p>	<p>In order for the SIG to be sustainable we are looking at increasing staff engagement, by creating a committee for the SIG so that it can be managed by the staff themselves.</p> <p>The SIG needs a virtual environment where staff can communicate with each other, outside and instead of, physical meetings.</p> <p>Administrative support for setting up meetings, typing up minutes, and general support would be very helpful.</p>
<p>Any other comments</p>	