

LevelUp@GRE

Skills for independent learning
and settling into university life

SHIFT 2020
Teaching and Learning
Conference

Jenny Spinks
Julie Mundair



Stockwell Street
Avery Hill
Medway

Academic
Support Team
Information and Library Services



What?

A transition skills module on Moodle created to:

- support transition to HE
- improve attainment
- impact positively on retention



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- Provides academic support for tutors and students
- Can foster and enhance learning relationships
- Can be tailored to suit needs

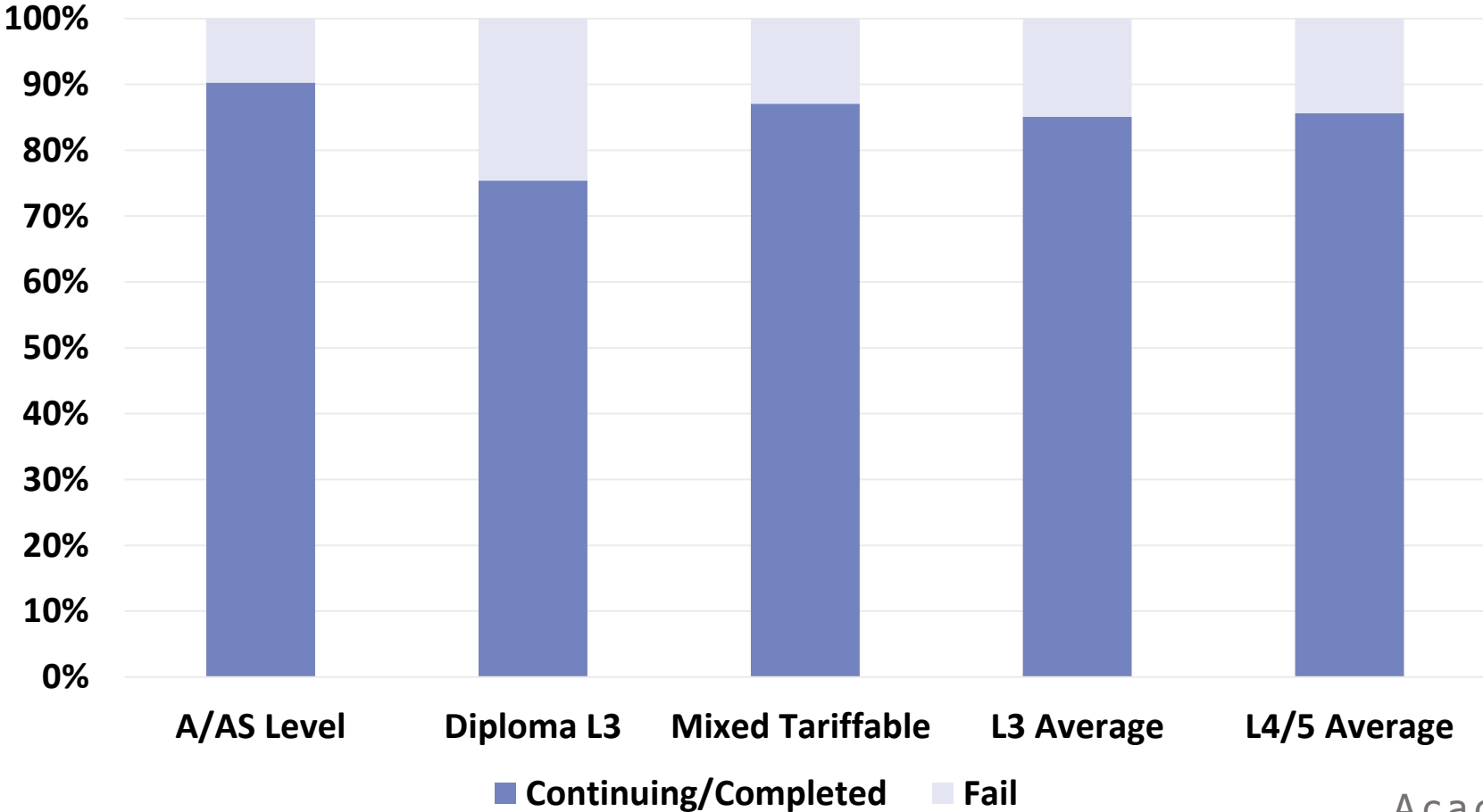


Why? Rationale and context

- Research led:
- 65% from widening participation backgrounds
- first in the family
- low income households
- BAME
- Typically WP students complete BTEC Diploma/other Level 3 qualifications, Access to HE Diplomas or vocational qualifications such as NVQs rather than AS/A Levels.



New Entrants' Progress 2018 – 2019



PAS 201819 YR1 Progression by entry quals. (L3-5)

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Filling the gaps

Support already provided by Academic Support Team

Creation of LevelUp

- Its purpose to be a Moodle course to support transition
- To prepare students for study
- To promote independent learning
- To foster a sense of reflection and a sense of the need for continuous improvement



What research says and why we need LevelUp?

- Not fully prepared, unrealistic expectations, desire to be independent
- Value independence as a life skill, but are unaware of what is expected of them at university
- Not adequately skilled
- Revisit Level three skills - focus on academic writing

University of Greenwich 1st year questionnaire (2015)
Independent Learning; Students' Perspectives and Experiences, (Thomas, Hockings & Jones, 2015)
Transition focus group for BTEC learners (2018)



LevelUp@GRE – How it works

1. Prepare

2. Engage

3. Reflect

4. Follow the arrows



LevelUp@GRE demo



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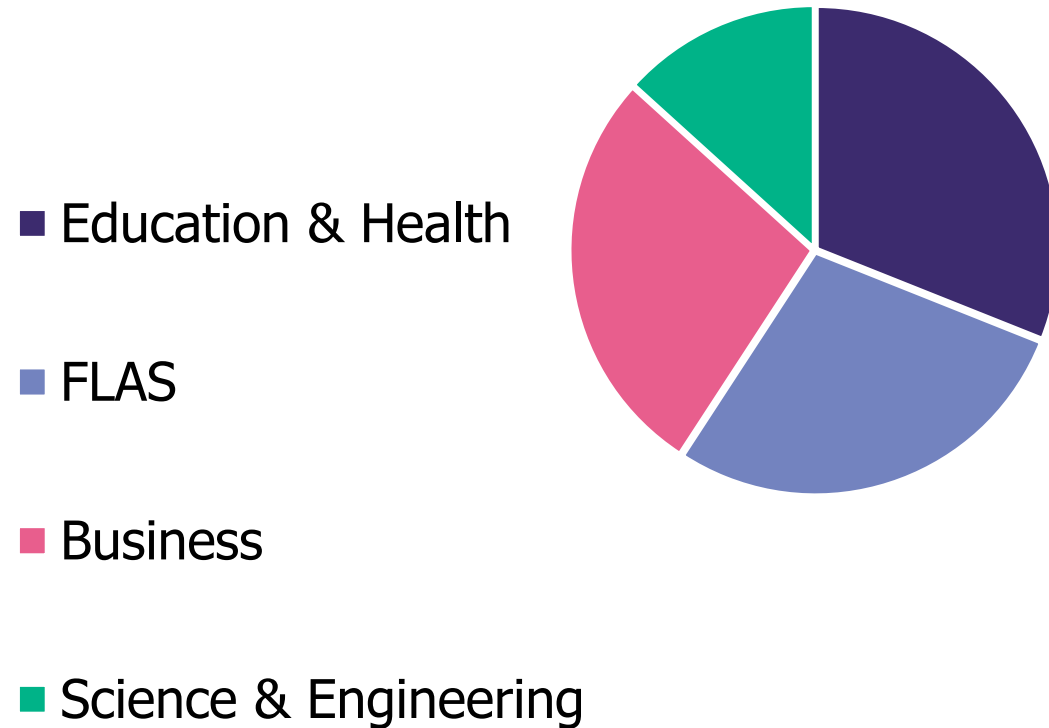
What else is LevelUp@GRE?

A skills course for students in their **first** year of university:
Level 3; Level 4, Level 6 and direct entry students as well as
Master's degree students

- Academic skills (digital, information literacy)
- Independent learning skills
- University culture
- Employability



LevelUp Participants - emerging patterns of use



Students using LevelUp:

October – 525

November – 583

December – 625



LevelUp@GRE Feedback to date

I heard a lot of terms that I was not familiar with, also I was feeling a little 'lost' and overwhelmed by it all.

I found the section on Settling into university life 'life changing'. Literally, got me focused, improved my confidence and just made me know that I'm on the right track with my studies

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LevelUp@GRE Feedback to date

I spent an afternoon reading and writing down the entire student glossary. I was able to share the information that I'd learnt with another student in my class.

My confidence level has certainly increased as a result of the settling into University level up guide.

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Suggested delivery:

- Personal Tutor led – classroom environment or self-directed learning for students – effective as stand-alone module
- Embedded in existing compulsory or accredited courses e.g. PDP or PPD – flexible delivery
- Delivered during induction and study week



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Status:

Initial responses have been positive

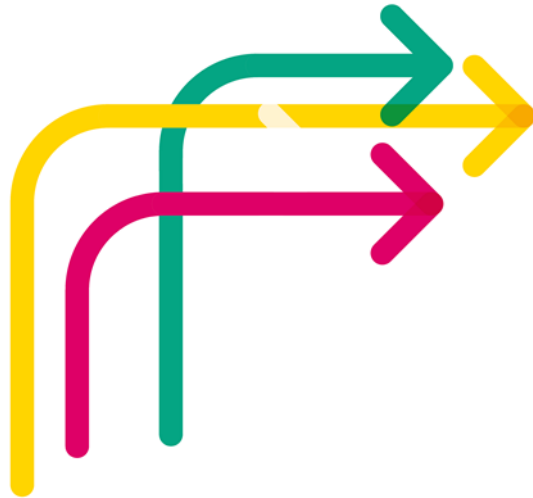
Responses to suggestions have been actioned

Awaiting further completed questionnaires

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Refer your students to academic skills



For workshops and 1-2-1 appointments

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References:

Jameson, J., Joslin, H. and Smith, S. (2014) Breaking through Groundhog Day; Making sense of Progression Conference Paper available at

http://www.academia.edu/attachments/34360446/download_file?st=MTU0MjEzNjQwNiwxOTMuNjAuNzguNDI%3D&s=swp-splash-paper-cover Accessed 11/12/19

Lloyd, A. (2012) Information literacy as a socially enacted practice: sensitising themes for an emerging perspective of people-in-practice, *Journal of Documentation*, Vol. 68 Issue: 6 pp.772-783 available at <https://www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/full/10.1108/00220411211277037> Accessed 11/12/19

Thomas, L., Hockings, C. and Jones, R (2015) Independent Learning; Students Perspectives and Experiences, HEA available at file:///C:/Users/ps93/Downloads/independent_learning_final.pdf Accessed 11/12/19

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Contact

Jules Mundair
Academic Skills Tutor
University of Greenwich
J.Mundair@gre.ac.uk

Jenny Spinks
Academic Skills Tutor
University of Greenwich
J.Spinks@gre.ac.uk

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