

The Kit - An Orientation Tool

Authors

Seugnet Kritzinger, Research Support Officer, Skills Centre, University College Cork
Kathy Bradley, Head of the Skills Centre, University College Cork

Findings

The Kit is aligned to UCC's revised strategy *UCC 2022: Delivering a Connected University* Pillar 1 – Learning and Teaching and Pillar 3 – Student Success.

The objective of The Kit addresses student needs in the transitional phases for students, including provide a personalised and bespoke opportunity for new students to explore and decode the language of university life. The Kit supports students in a sustainable way as they transition in and through college life, cultivating a sense of inclusivity and belonging for all new students and optimising student engagement and support the overall wellbeing and enhanced student experience within UCC.

The Kit consists of a 6-part, non-credit bearing, Canvas course, currently in development, which will be offered to all students new to UCC in 2022/23 academic year. A pilot course will be roll-out to current students at the end of January 2022 to incorporate the student voice and include feedback for improvement. A future aim of this programme is to make the programme available under creative commons to facilitate its use in other organisations, further enhancing inclusivity, student engagement, overall wellbeing, and student success.

Anticipated Impact

It is anticipated that The Kit will impact those who learn and those who teach.

Those who learn will be introduced and simulated to their new learning environment through student engagement. Students will develop an understanding of the expectation of their new environment, while simultaneously becoming familiar with the language of the university. They also have an opportunity to develop a plan to build the necessary skills to flourish while settling in to third level education, secure in the knowledge that the university supports their overall wellbeing and learning as individuals. Additionally, they will foster a sense of belonging and inclusivity as they discover how to apply their learning and knowledge to their subject-specific disciplines.

Those who teach will receive additional connectivity to the student population and the opportunity to foster a sense of continuous belonging and inclusivity. This will be achieved through the customisation of The Kit to individual disciplines, schools, and departments.

Aims

The aim of this project is to provide support to students in a sustainable way as they transition in and through college life, and to cultivate a sense of inclusivity and belonging for all students new to UCC. Through this project we aim to have 'The Kit' serve as a hybrid orientation model and hope to develop similar programmes/iterations to optimise student engagement and supporting the overall wellbeing and student success through the inclusivity of all.

Visuals

The screenshot displays the 'Part 1 - Know Before You Go' section of The Kit. The menu includes: What's Happening, Things You Can Do, Welcome, Where to find, Student Programmes, Student Apps, UCC Life - Getting Involved, Healthy Campus, Student Services, Part 1 Interactive Q, and Let's Reflect. A QR code is provided for scanning. Below the menu is a floor plan of 'The Hub - Ground Floor' with various rooms and services labeled, such as Student Central, The Active Learning Space, Coffee Station, The Atrium, Student Experience Officer, First Year Experience Coordinator, Scholarships, Quercus, Student Media, The Hub Reception Desk, Careers Advisors & Study Rooms, The Maker Space, UCC Campus Radio Station, and The Winkle Way Walkway.

Optional/Additional Content and References

A funnel approach was used to develop this project. Part 1 addresses all the 'Know Before You Go,' part 2 is 'Finding Your Feet,' part 3 shifts towards skills development, part 4 looks at things to 'Know As You Go,' part 5 addresses goal setting and part 6 is customised for each specific academic department.

[UCC 2022 – Delivering a Connected University](#)