

Online Pre-Entry Nursing Summer School (OPENs)

Course Tour Meet the Teachers Nursing at the University of Glasgow Course Help

A Pre-Entry Distance Course on Moodle:

Articulating course expectations, aiming to impact on access and student confidence

Developers: Dr Chris Finlay, Dr Mary McVey, Dr Beth Paschke, Dr Leoni DeWert & Mr Graham MacIntosh

Students: Laura Carmichael, Catriona Simpson, Liam Doyle & Hazel Hamilton

Online Pre-Entry Nursing Summer School (OPENs)

What is it?

A nursing specific, 6 week, online summer school designed to prepare participating students for entry into their undergraduate studies.

Why was it created?

Previously nursing students were required to attend a 6-week on-campus summer school as part of their condition of entry.

This created several issues:

- The on-campus summer school was not tailored for nurses
- The need to attend the course in Glasgow; work commitments, travel & accommodation costs
- The requirement to achieve a B grade in non-relevant content

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Aims:

The course is designed to allow students to experience University level teaching and assessment methods.

The course structure and content articulates the expectations placed on first year students helping to highlight the reality of transition into Higher Education.

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Why Pre-entry?

For incoming Nursing students:

- Preparation for first year of undergraduate nursing degree.
- Updating Biological and Chemical knowledge before starting the nursing course.
- Highlighting the expectations of a first year student.

We also believe that:

There is a lot of untapped potential for pre-entry engagement like this. Transition to HE is a known difficulty for many students (Thomas, L, 2012).

Thomas L, 2012, Building student engagement and belonging in Higher Education at a time of change: final report from the What Works? Student Retention & Success programme. Available at: https://www.heacademy.ac.uk/sites/default/files/What_works_finalreport.pdf [accessed 24th October 2014]

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Nursing Content

Orientation Week



Week 1 Introduction



Week 2 - Blood, Heart & Lungs



Week 3 - Blood Chemistry



Week 4 - Hot Topics



Week 5 - Anatomy for Nurses



Week 6 - Drug Interactions



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Development

- 1x 0.5 FTE 3.5 months, and 3 other members of staff.
[Conservative estimate 30 days total.](#)

Creating slides, recording lessons, designing assessments and tasks, deciding timeline.

Administration

- 1x 0.5FTE for 7 weeks, Other staff ~ 25 hours
[Weekly Webinar \(1hr per week\)](#)
[Marking assessments \(3hr per week\)](#)
[Monitoring forums, answering questions \(1hr per week\)](#)
- Posting to forum, leading webinars, marking assessments, evaluating feedback**

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Course Activities

- Introductory activities
- Course Forum
- Getting to know you glossary entry
- Embedded Google slides introducing the week

Weekly Structure

- Key Task
- Lessons
- Other Tasks / assessments
- Case study
- Live tutorial
- Feedback activity



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Moodle Course – Limits?

Planning

- **Timings** of lessons and activities
- **Training** in use of technology

Technical

- **Live tutorial** - Difficulties getting everyone on-line at same time
- **Lessons** - Echo 360 slow sometimes downloading clips

Numbers: Running the course for a larger cohort would require a rethink for some of the activities

Engagement: students were all very engaged and willing to overcome technical issues, this may not be the case for larger groups

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Evaluation



The pilot study had 6 participating students.

We recognise the evaluation is limited due to these small numbers but there are hints to the potential benefits of such a course.

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Student impressions of online learning

All students answered **NO** to the question:
I feel I will miss out by not being able to attend on campus activities.

Reasons included:

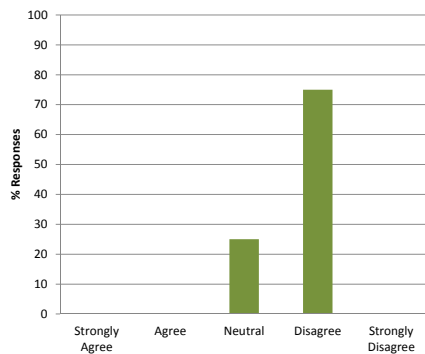
“Video conferencing means that I can talk to the students and lecturers from anywhere. I can still visit the campus if I so wish.”

“I work full-time so wouldn't be able to participate in on campus activities to any great extent at present. Once the full-time undergraduate course starts in September I will quit my job and be able to attend campus activities.”

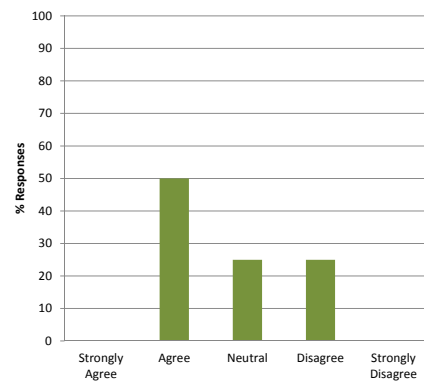
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Evaluation – Pre Course

Online courses are of a lower standard than courses where you meet your teachers face to face.



Without an online option I would not be able to participate in this course.



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Evaluation – Pre to Post Course



An increase in confidence about starting nursing degree.

A slight increase in confidence in seeking out staff.

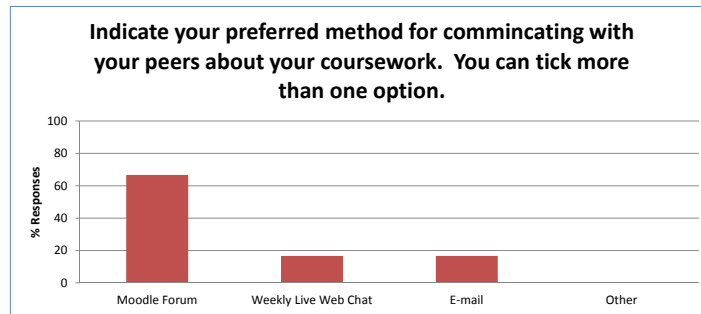
An increase in understanding what studying nursing will involve.

An increase in awareness of undergraduate study

More comfortable with online forums (same for live web chats)

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Evaluation – Post Course



Reasons included:

“I found the forum really helpful because I could access it any time. It was easy to post questions or comments knowing they would be answered without having to schedule a set time to discuss, which would have been difficult given everyone works different hours.”

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Evaluation – Post Course

All students answered **YES** to the question:

Would you recommend this course to other potential nursing students?

Reasons included:

“You get a good idea of what to expect from the undergraduate course, it gets you back in the habit of studying and writing assignments, and you get to meet other people who will be on the course as well.”

“Each lecture seemed very relevant, and the tasks made us put our brains into gear!”

“It is a good way of gaining a good basic knowledge to develop on and an excellent way to revise any material you have learnt from previous studies and incorporate that into a more clinical sense.”

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Let's hear from some of the students

Laura Carmichael

Liam Doyle

Hazel Hamilton

Catriona Simpson

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Future?

- Promotional/ recruitment resource?
- Clinical exposure prior to study?
- Increasing/decreasing numbers required to complete Summer School as a requirement for entry to GU Nursing?
- Could a student be allowed to complete the course in a condensed time?
- Guest access?
- Could students access after they have enrolled for their Nursing programme?
- Accessibility requirements?
- A requirement for all Nursing students?

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Open Resource - Toolkit



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Toolkit: Structure, Administration &
Development

<http://moodle2.gla.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=4231>

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