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Understanding the challenges facing students in transitioning to university

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Horizons in STEM Higher Education Conference: Making Connections and Sharing Pedagogy

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

Please complete this abstract submission form and save in PDF format before uploading to EasyChair at <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=stemhorizons17>
The deadline for submissions is **31st March 2017**

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Title of your presentation/session:	Understanding the challenges facing students in transitioning to university

<p>Presentation type: what is your preferred format?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poster presentation • Oral presentation (20 mins) • Workshop (1 hour) • Virtual presentation (5-minute “flash” video or poster, available for international submissions) 	Workshop
<p>Are you interested in submitting a full paper based on your presentation after the conference? (2000-4000 words). Deadline 30th September.</p>	Yes
<p>Student presentations: are students partners in this work?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-led presentation • Student as co-presenters • Student as co-authors 	Yes (Student as co-presenters; Student as co-authors)
<p>To support the conference aims of Making Connections, Innovating and Sharing Pedagogy, the conference committee welcomes submissions that fall either within the following broad educational themes or discipline areas. Please indicate whether your work fits in the pedagogic/innovation themes of the conference which may be of interest to all STEM colleagues or whether it is subject specific of interest to a discipline-based audience.</p>	
<p>Themes: Which of these <u>themes</u> does your presentation address?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Education • Enhancing the student experience • Students as partners in teaching and research • Reward and recognition • International perspectives on STEM education 	<p>Enhancing the student experience Students as partners in teaching and research</p>
<p>OR: Discipline: Which <u>discipline</u> is your proposed presentation situated?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Sciences • Computer Science • Psychology • Physics • Chemistry • Earth Sciences • Engineering • Mathematics 	<p>Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Pharmaceutical Sciences research findings will be presented but otherwise workshop will be relevant to all disciplines</p>

- Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Other (please specify)

Abstract

- Poster presentations (150 – 300 words)
- Oral presentations, workshops (250 – 500 words)
- Virtual presentations (available for international submissions) (150-300 words)

For example include:

- Background about the area and theoretical framework of the work
- An outline of the issues explored
- An account of the work that is in progress or has been carried out
- Where appropriate an outline of the structure of the session, including activities, designed to engage delegates with the topic area
- The intended learning outcomes for participants.

Challenges exist in ensuring a connected transition to higher education that it is not only inclusive but is a positive experience. There is also a national disparity in university attainment whereby the proportion of White students graduating with good degrees is significantly higher than those from Black, minority ethnic (BME) groups. On the contrary, in schools, BME attainment has been improving since 2006/7, and achievement gaps between ethnic groups and the national level have disappeared with many groups. There can be wide ranging and significant differences in prior experiences, sense of belonging/expectations, student homogeneity and preparedness that can compound successful transition. Exploring the variable transitional experiences between different cohorts of students from school/college to university to identify patterns that may lead to a more in-depth understanding of transition to university is important. Therefore, this workshop will explore the recent findings of a research project entitled ‘Understanding the challenges facing students, particularly BME, in transitioning to university’ and seek through shared experiences with delegates the barriers and enablers in creating a better positive transition to higher education that permits a greater sense of belonging and meets our student’s expectations.

Please provide a summary of your abstract – maximum 50 words to be used in advertising the sessions and encouraging audience engagement

This interactive workshop will aim to give delegates a greater understanding of the challenges facing students transitioning to university, identifying the enablers for a positive experience and those that create a greater sense of belonging.

Equipment/session requirements – ONLY complete this section if you are submitting an abstract for a workshop and know what equipment you might need which we will try our best to accommodate. NB: Short oral presentations will have the usual IT facilities i.e. PC/laptop, projector facilities and access to the internet. Virtual presentations will have similar display facilities; more details to follow.

Flipchart, computer with internet access, post its