



UNIVERSITY OF
LINCOLN

Foundation Studies Centre

FYN Workshop: Assessing the value of integrated degrees with
Foundation Year in context

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Lincoln - The Local Context

- The East Midlands has the lowest social mobility scores in England for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds (Social Mobility Commission, 2017)
- Lowest university entry rates for disadvantaged young people, particularly rural and coastal Lincolnshire (Ibid)
- A third of secondary schools are judged as less than good (Ofsted, 2016)



Lincoln Science Foundation Year (SFY)

225 students studying 37 different BSc (Hons), BEng (Hons) and Masters programmes integrated into five Schools across the College of Science.



Engineering



Maths and Physics



Chemistry



Life Sciences



Pharmacy

Supporting Access and Participation in HE for those who may not meet the standard entry requirements

- Non-traditional qualifications
- Break from education
- Combination of subject areas
- Lower-than-expected grades

Progression and Attainment

Our first cohort have now completed their foundation year and Year 1 of their main programme

- 85% of students progressed into Year 1
- SFY alumni attained higher average Year 1 exam scores than their direct entry peers across all Schools in the College of Science
 - SFY alumni enrolled on Life Sciences programmes attain 3% higher
 - SFY alumni enrolled on masters programmes attained 9% higher (MPharm)

'Because of the skills I got from science foundation year now I can often advise or help [my direct entry peers] in things they struggle with'

SFY Alumni



Impact on Year 1 Attainment

- **Ethnicity:** SFY alumni BME students attained 10% higher than the Year 1 average
- **Mature students:** SFY alumni attained 13% higher than the Y1 average (direct entry mature students attained 6% lower than the Y1 average)
- **Wellbeing:** SFY alumni with a mental health condition, including anxiety disorders, attained 9% greater than direct entry students with a mental health condition.

'Self-directed learning is the main thing that I have got from SFY. Being able to teach yourself is the fantastic gift that you need if you want to succeed.'

SFY Alumni



Impact on Year 1 Attainment

- **Non A-Level:** SFY alumni with A-levels and those with alternate qualifications attained equally (direct entry students with non A-level qualifications performed 10% lower than direct entry students with A-level qualifications)
- SFY alumni with alternative qualifications (non A-level) attained 7% higher than direct entry students with alternative qualifications



'I can't wait to use all the skills, tips, tricks and tools, to aid me in my future learning'

'My attitude and learning skills have changed dramatically... it will help me be a much better independent learner'

SFY Alumni



What Works?

Outstanding Teaching

- Multidisciplinary curriculum planning and teaching by staff who are all dual qualified across educational sectors (secondary, further and higher education)
- Module evaluations 20% above the University average

*'Teaching students to learn is genius
...invaluable ... given us a head start'
SFY 2017-18 Alumni*



Holistic Student Support

- 'Skills to success' programme to develop essential HE study skills delivered by a broad range of experts from across the University
- Enhanced level of personal tutoring
- Strong collaboration with student wellbeing (30% of SFY students access exam support vs. 10% of direct cohort)

What Works?

*'Students undertaking foundation years may feel isolated from the student body'
(OfS, 2019)*

Integration and 'Belonging'

- Full access to University accommodation, facilities, rep system, sports teams, academic and wellbeing support services
- Curriculum co-designed by SFY and destination School academics
- Transition modules taught by leading destination School academics
- Cross-curricular 'buddy system' and student educators



'Sharing the learning processes by which another student gained understanding exposes me to new ways of learning and helps me access more challenging material'

SFY Student 2018-19

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