



INCLUSIVE PRACTICE CASE STUDY - 5

Transition courses

International Foundation Programme
College of Arts, Humanities and Social
Sciences (CAHSS)

OBJECTIVE(S)

The International Foundation Programme (IFP) is a globally recognised qualification and, at this University, it aims to prepare international students to undertake undergraduate degrees within CAHSS, by equipping them with required knowledge and skills (including academic English skills).

ACTION

The IFP is offered as an in-person, full-time, one-year programme for international students whose first languages are not English and whose previous qualifications do not meet the University's entry requirements for direct entry into first year.

Successful completion of the IFP, with the required results, allows progression to selected undergraduate degree programmes, applications for which are supported by the IFP team.

Optional courses during the programme allow students to tailor their studies to the academic interests they hope to pursue following completion.

IMPACT

1. Progression to undergraduate study

From the 2023 IFP cohort, 100% of students progressed to undergraduate study, 95% of them within CAHSS. This indicates that the IFP successfully prepares students to meet the entry requirements for undergraduate degrees.

2. Expansion of programme into STEM subjects

From 2026/27, the University will offer a new Biological, Chemical, Biomedical and Environmental Sciences IFP pathway, to prepare students for entry into undergraduate degree programmes within the College of Science and Engineering (CSE) and the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine (CMVM).

ADAPTIVE PRINCIPLES

- Pre-undergraduate transition support, designed to prepare students for degree study
- Academic, linguistic and cultural skills development
- Interdisciplinary transition programme design, with optional courses relevant to a variety of subjects
- Success in supporting progression into CAHSS led to expansion into STEM, to support entry to CSE

AT A GLANCE

CHALLENGES

- Barriers, e.g., prior qualifications and English language skill levels, can prevent international students from entering undergraduate study

BENEFITS

- Academic, linguistic and (academic) cultural skills development for prospective international students
- Pre-sessional/transition support likely to better equip future students for success

RESOURCES/OUTPUTS

- [IFP website](#)
- Teaching Matters [blog post](#) detailing IFP adaptations and learning due to COVID-19
- Teaching Matters [blog post](#) reflecting on integrating Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, and inclusive curricula, into the IFP
- The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) [scoping document](#) and subsequent [evaluation](#) of International Pathway Programmes, including IFPs, in comparison to equivalent domestic programmes