



UDL

Universal Design for Learning

Power of Potential

Sharing Experiences from Universal Design for Learning Journeys

Conference: 26th - 28th June 2024



IMAGE REDACTED

*Empowering
Students: Creating
a Study Skills Portal
through Universal
Design for Learning
and Community
Collaboration
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Sarah Purcell and
Jenny Watkins.*

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First thoughts.....

“When we change our mindset – when we chop off the end of the word accessibility and think about access – we free ourselves to create colleges and universities that truly serve the needs of an increasingly diverse population of learners”

Tobin & Behling (2018, p1)

IMAGE REDACTED



Why we
did it...

IMAGE REDACTED



The history of the Study skills portal



The short course project in the *Institute of Education* was designed as an online learning experience. The development of study skills would need to be online and accessible. This led to the development of the **study skills tab**.



This was developed through a collaboration between Technology Enhanced Learning(TEL) (Pete Thornton) Library Services (Sarah Purcell)



Also piloted within the FdA in Early Years (0-8) across the Partnership for this course.

The history of the Study skills portal





Important design features

- Posey and Novack (2020) suggest that offering scaffolds for all learners empower the opportunity to be accessed. Like a scaffold on the side of a building these can be removed or in the case of the study skills differentiated.
- It was important that both the content and the software supported and scaffolded an approach to the development of study skills.



IMAGE REDACTED

Software solution- Articulate



What is Articulate ? Articulate is a course authoring software which allows the creation of visually appealing and interactive elements. It is also designed to be fully accessible.



Access features -Learners often use screen readers to experience e-learning courses, so it's important to note that Rise 360 supports JAWS, NVDA, VoiceOver, and TalkBack screen readers with our [supported browsers](#).



Summary of the elements that can be used can be accessed [here](#).



Alongside this we aimed to be consistent in our labelling and always use ALT tabs on images so that learners using assistive software can access. If a block is known to not be fully accessible i.e., drag and drop then we will provide an accessible text only version of that activity.



Gathering the content and working together to make this accessible.



Moving the pilot forward

Three important steps

- A community of practice- This resource has been created by colleagues across the institution, to create an engaging, asynchronous resource to support study skills teaching both in modules and in self-directed learning.
- A desire to refresh the study skills portal.
- A willingness to take action to realise a vision.

IMAGE REDACTED

Looking at the portal [Click here](#) to access

Starting at University



Complete our online learning activities to prepare yourself for life at University.

Studying at University



Learn how to maximise your study while at University.

Study Skills Audit



Check your existing skills with our online self-audit.

Academic English Test



Check and develop your academic English skills.

Useful Contacts



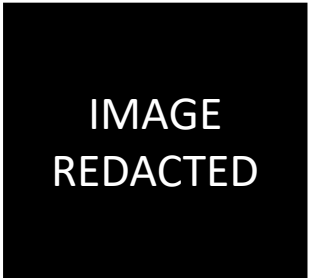
All the useful people you may need to contact while at University!

Personal Academic Tutor (PAT) prescribing.

- PAT prescribing



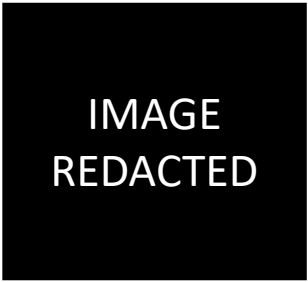
How do the students feel about the Study Skills Portal?



91%

of students found it a supportive way of developing their study skills

93%



would recommend that their peers use the Study Skills Portal

References

- Tobin, Thomas, J. & Behling, Kirsten, T. (2018) *Reach Everyone, Teach Everyone Universal Design for Learning in Higher Education*. Virginia: West Virginia University Press.
- Posey, A. & Novack, K. (2020) *Unlearning -Changing your beliefs and your classroom with UDL*. Massachusetts: CAST.