

Your Future **me** Design Thinking Problem Brief

Department: Psychology

L4 BSc Psychology

L4 BSc Forensic Psychology

L4 BSc Psychology with Counselling and Psychotherapy

Opening question:

How might universities improve psychology students' experience of transition from college to university?

Context:

Making the transition to university is exciting but can also be quite daunting. Research tells us that the quality of this transition has a huge impact on both course success and student wellbeing. A good transition can ensure that a student feels that they 'belong' at the university, increasing confidence and motivation. On the other hand, many students who withdraw from studies in the first year do so because of their experiences during this period.

We would like you to consider the transition process for psychology students through new and critical eyes. From pre-university support to induction and beyond, you should work together to identify areas for improvement and generate ideas to reimagine this process. This should be done in an empathetic manner which acknowledges the wide range of challenges faced by new students.

Starting points/ prompts:

- What are the barriers and enablers for students successfully transitioning from college or work to university?
- New psychology students at university will have had a wide range of school experiences. How can universities ensure a positive transition for ALL students?
- When does the process start? Open days, application stage, arrival and/or beyond?
- What influences a sense of belonging? How do we know when students feel like they belong?

Initial reading:

- [Bridging the Gap: Exploring the Unique Transition From Home, School or College Into University - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)
- [Microsoft Word - ptr19 2-facilitatingTransition-final.docx \(core.ac.uk\)](#)