The HEFCE (2001) lifecycle model may be a useful reference point to anyone considering transition. It was written initially as a widening participation resource, but it is relevant to all students and comprises the following sections:

1) Raising aspirations
2) Pre-entry
3) Induction
4) First term
5) Moving through the course
6) Employment

Raising aspirations

The Schools, Colleges & Community Outreach (SCCO) team spends much time working with school children and their family to promote the possibilities of higher education to potential students with no family history of HE. Academic colleagues may be interested in participating in different SCCO activities to better understand the experiences of students before they arrive at NTU.

Pre-entry

At NTU, this stage is largely addressed by the Starting at NTU web pages. These contain information about completing online enrolment, sources of support Welcome Week. Course staff may also be interested in the seven short Starting at NTU films available in Youtube. Guidance for Course teams about online course inductions can be found.

Induction

NTU provides Welcome Week to aid students’ social transition into university life. Welcome Week offers 350 opportunities for students to start to build a peer support network and begin to feel that they belong to the university. At the same time, we have conducted ongoing research into good practice in course inductions. See the induction page for more information.

First Term

Purnell (2005) (in Purnell & Foster, 2008) argues that most students ought to be fully integrated into the course by the end of the first term. We would suggest that whilst this is often the case socially, most students won’t have made the academic transition by this time. Bryson & Hardy (2012) certainly found that social transition came first. Whilst we
would expect all course teams to consider how they manage students’ academic transition throughout and across the curriculum, the tutorial programme was designed specifically to augment this process. Academic tutorials were designed to give students small groups with which they could bond and safely engage in subject debates.

**Moving through the course**

At NTU, there is an expectation that new students will receive a returners’ induction during their first week back. This is likely to be a short event contained within one of the first lectures back. Some schools may wish to organise this differently. See induction page for more detail.

**Employment**

NTU has increasingly invested in improving employment. There will be several strategies taking place at school level. One initiative that may be worth promoting to students is the [Acceler8](#) scheme a combined employment/volunteering and skills training programme.

**Further information**

Contact [Ed Foster](#) in the library for further information about student transition.

**Transition Conferences**

The EFYE (European First Year Experience Conference) takes place in various countries around spring /summer time every year.

**Bibliography**


HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND, *Strategies for widening participation in higher education*, HEFCE 01/36 June Guide.

