

Strategies to enhance retention

Transition and integration

The Birkbeck context

- Evening, part-time university
- Long tradition of attracting 'second chance' adult students
- Most students in employment
- Average age 34
- Stratford campus: widening access

Strategies to aid retention

- Strategic focus on pre-entry/transition phase of student journey
- Integrated approach to recruitment and retention
- Integration of widening access and retention activities

Transition into HE

Student experience now focusing on retention of 1st year UG students, in particular the transition into HE phase through

- development of interactive online material
- face-to-face programmes preparing students for HE
- development of orientation activities
- transition mentoring
- development of first term support programme

Get Ahead : Stay Ahead online

Pre-entry information, support and interactive learning

- Returning to learning and expectations
- Needs analysis and self-assessment
- Study preparation
- Life as a student and how to succeed
- Study skills development



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**Get Ahead:
Stay Ahead**



**Information
and advice**



**Student support
services**



**Financial support
and fees**



**Student
guides**



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Get Ahead: Stay Ahead

- [How to use Get Ahead: Stay Ahead](#)
- [Achieving your goals](#)
- [Studying at Birkbeck](#)
- [Improving your study skills](#)
- [Support services at Birkbeck](#)
- [Accessibility](#)

Related links

- [Meet us at an event](#)
- [Course listings A-Z](#)

Get Ahead: Stay Ahead

Helping you get the best possible start to your course and supporting you during your studies

These interactive pages will help you:

- [consider how you can achieve your goals](#)
- [find out what studying at Birkbeck is like](#)
- [improve your study skills](#)
- [succeed on your course](#)

How to use this website

Get Ahead summer programme

- for all undergraduate applicants and enrolled students
- aims to prepare students for the transition into HE
 - addressing anxieties and concerns
 - familiarising students with the Birkbeck environment
 - addressing students' expectations of university study
 - offering a chance to meet other students

Wednesday 29 June

Time	Event	Room	Description
10.00 – 11.55pm	Workshop 1	B04	Critical thinking skills We will reflect on ways in which we exercise our critical reasoning in our daily lives and how we can translate these into analytical thinking in academic studies.
	Workshop 2	B35	Returning to study - your concerns and how we can help An opportunity for you to talk about any concerns you may have about returning to study. It will be a chance for us to tell you about the support services provided by your Students' Union.
12.00 – 1.55pm	Workshop 3	B04	Using the Internet for academic purposes Think Wikipedia and Google are enough for your information needs? Come and get advice on how to improve the quality and efficiency of your online research.
	Workshop 4	B02	Money management This workshop focuses on how to increase your income and how to make what you have go a bit further. The management of debts is also an important theme.
2.00 – 3.55pm	Workshop 5	B04	Time management This session will offer advice on planning your study time effectively. You will explore how to identify your long term goals, prioritise your tasks and establish a study timetable.
	Workshop 6	B02	What will be expected of you as a student? We will look at making realistic time commitments to lectures/seminars and independent learning, and also 'academic thinking' and identify its key features and conventions.

Orientation events

- 4 days of programme –
 - builds on summer programme
 - 16 choices of talks that can be attended
 - differentiates between UG and PG students
 - over 2000 students
- Orientation Extra for late enrollees

Transition mentoring

- Focus on first 6 weeks of term for new UG students
- Opportunity for students to address issues early on

Stay Ahead winter programme

- for all first year undergraduate students
- aims to aid progression into the second term
 - addressing issues relevant at this point in time
 - series of workshops and drop-in sessions

Over to you...

Retention activities at your institution:

- What worked?
- What didn't work?
- Any lessons learned?