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Supporting BTEC students through the Law School's STEPS Programme (Success in Transition, Enablement and Progression)

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In our presentation we aim to:

- Explain why we introduced STEPS
- What we considered in beginning to design STEPS
- Explain what STEPS will include



Why STEPS? (1)

- An over-representation of students that fail first year modules with A-level equivalent qualifications;
- differential attainment and progression group
- Struggle with senses of belonging (Summerlad)/or feel 'othered'
- Can take longer to enter graduate employment (Crawford)



Why STEPS? (2)

- Can find it difficult to take-up extra curricular activities (TUOS WPREU);
- BTEC students disproportionately fail to complete their degrees (Holford)



What could we do about it?

The programme intends to build on:

- studies on social and cultural intelligence;
- aspects of inclusive teaching and learning (with help from attending the TUOS SEED programme);
- notions of transformation; and
- Concepts of competence, autonomy and relatedness



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Invitation to participate



What STEPS includes

- An informal mentoring and signposting community
- Where students can learn to be confident in their own success
- Drawing on help and support already available within the University
- And from external sources



Examples of help and support from with TUOS:

Bringing in representatives from the University's:

- study skills centre 301;
- the careers service programme aimed at widening participation students (First generation+);
- the financial assistance department; and
- from Disability and Dyslexia Support Services



New help and support within the Law School to support progression into graduate employment:

- introducing a new volunteering initiative – Law into Schools and Colleges - which is less time intensive than, eg the FreeLaw Legal Clinic and the Miscarriages of Justice Review Centre
- working with the School's International and City Law Firm Liaison Officer to broaden the students selected for opportunities to network with international and city law firms



Examples of external help and support:

Bringing in speakers from, for example:

- Representatives from bodies representing different members of the legal profession
- Recent and not so recent alumni
- Local practice



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Being confident in your own success

(transition, enablement, progression)