





The Art of surviving and thriving; a framework for mature learners.

Martell Baines, Progression Manager FHEA & Dr Sam Broadhead, Head of Research, SHEA Leeds Arts University February 2018







"The Student Ambassador scheme gives you fantastic "The whole bit at the end skills to put on your CV. It makes you confident, you **Career Track** is as important "I applied on a bit of a chance and participate in events you do not normally know how "One thing it has given me is as the bit at the beginning." Tuesdays, "I was very happy to find was lucky to get an interview and a to do. You build up skills without even realising it" confidence in speaking to art out there were 10 mature Start Up Bespoke & place. It was a real confidence boost professionals. I have to go to talk **Communities of** students on my course" that they wanted me on the course." Wednesdays individual about my work in an exhibition" Student **Artists**, Designers FE to HE campus Mature Start up Ambassador & Makers Creative Orientation Recognition of tours **Mature Learner Students** Incubation Scheme 1 to 1 Careers **Networks** Day **Prior Learning Easter School** Mock Welcome Units **Talks** planning (RPL) Interviews **PROGRESSION ACCESS TRANSITION** RETENTION **OUTREACH GRADUATION** (into HE) (in HE) (Pre-HE) (further study or employment) Mature **Entrepreneurs Access to HE** Internal **End of Year** Presentations on Students **Boot Camp Creatives** 3 day Summer **Student Buddy Progression Show tours** postgraduate Network School Scheme support provision to Residence **Access to HE SU Mature** Alumni students **Level 2 Diploma in** Twilight Café: "I am the oldest in my year, **Externally facing** Students Network Visual Art & there is a camaraderie amongst the students. The art of Officer engagement There has been no prejudice from the younger **Level 3 Access to HE** writing. students, they have treated me as their equal." "Even though I had a degree "The University spends a lot of time on their "I had not written an essay since I was at school, I felt I needed something more immersive, Alumni. I get emails on creative opportunities, calls my biggest fear was how people would read like the 1 year Access to Higher Education. for artists, workshops." what I have written" It gave me the confidence to do the MA."

- Broadhead's (2012; 2018) research with mature students from diverse backgrounds and 'unconventional educational histories' argues
 for a community of mature students to be created that increase feelings of support and belonging within the Arts University.
- Feedback from the National Student Survey indicated that mature students were less likely to be happy with the Students Union and were more likely to be critical of the organisation and management of courses.
- In response to these indicators, interventions were designed to support the academic, socialisation and participatory aspects
 of the curriculum so that mature students are able to succeed and progress.
- The framework spans the student lifecycle from level 2 (pre-Access to HE Diploma) to level seven and beyond.
- Key to the success of these practical interventions is that they are cross-institutional strategies.
- Activities undertaken by the Progression team; the Academic Support team; the Careers, Enterprise and Employment team and the Student Union 'dovetail' together to ensure students are supported throughout their educational journeys.
- These interventions can be used in other institutions; however they have been fine-tuned to fit the particular context of art and design.
- Students are introduced to art and design pedagogical approaches; they are also socialised into various communities of artistic practice.
- The participation of mature students in the student union is a new focus that is now being developed.

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