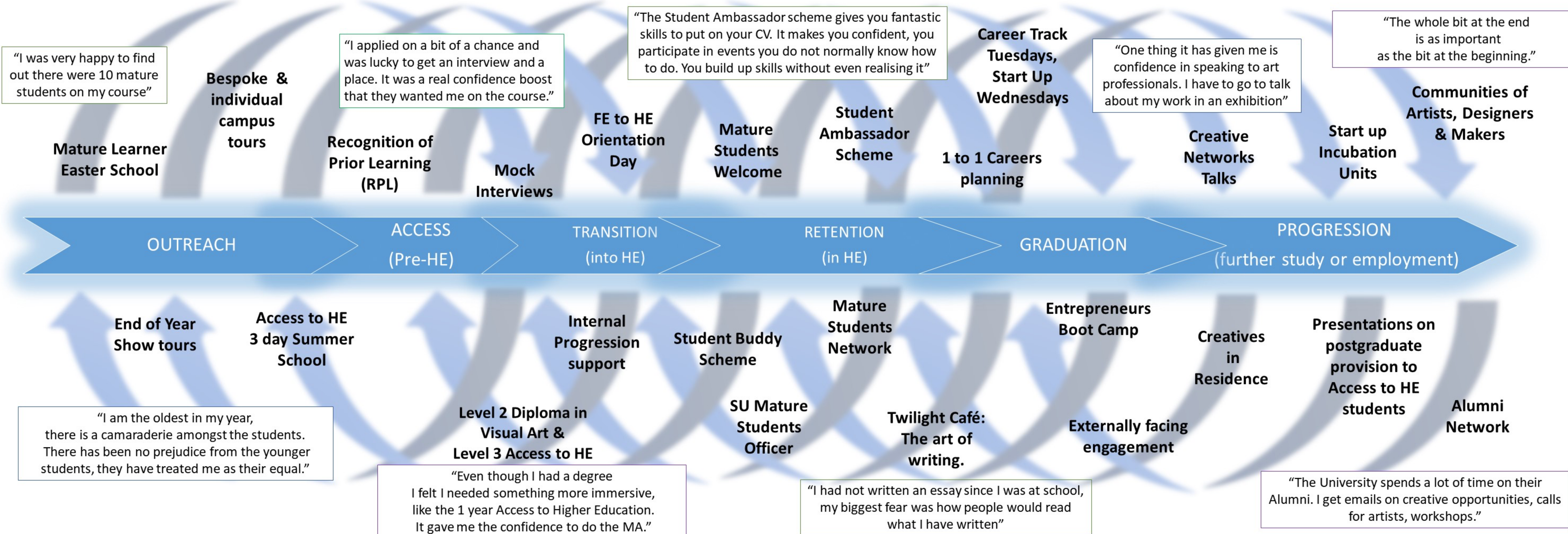


**The Art of surviving and thriving;
a framework for mature learners.**
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- Broadhead's (2012; 2018) research with mature students from diverse backgrounds and 'unconventional educational histories' argues for a community of mature students to be created 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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