

# Thinking about the student journey

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## The first year

### Pre-Arrival (Before the Semester Starts)

#### 1. Two Months Before Arrival:

- What interactive preparatory materials can we provide to students to help them get ready for their course?
- How can we introduce students to their course and tutors through online platforms or welcome videos?
- What methods can we use to facilitate peer connections among new students (e.g., online forums, social media groups)?

#### 2. One Month Before Arrival:

- What types of guest lectures or webinars can we offer to give students insights into their field of study?
- How can we ensure students have access to essential information about their course structure and expectations?

### Arrival and Induction (First Two Weeks)

#### 3. Welcome Week:

- What activities can we include in Welcome Week to help students feel a sense of belonging and community?
- How can we ensure that orientation events are accessible and convenient for commuter and mature students?
- What information do students need about support services (e.g., health, wellbeing, financial support) during induction?

#### 4. Second Week:

- How can we introduce students to the academic resources available to them, such as libraries and IT services?

- What strategies can we use to help students understand their course structure and timetable?

### **Early Semester (Weeks 3-6)**

#### **5. Academic Engagement:**

- How can we support students in their academic progress and engagement during the early weeks of the semester?
- What ongoing academic advising and support can we provide to ensure students are on track?

#### **6. Social Integration:**

- What opportunities can we create for students to join clubs, societies, and extracurricular activities?
- How can we promote cultural and social events to encourage student participation and community building?

### **Mid-Semester (Weeks 7-10)**

#### **7. Ongoing Support:**

- What mechanisms can we put in place to regularly check in with students and address any concerns they may have?
- How can we ensure that students are aware of and can access the various support services available to them?

### **End of Semester (Weeks 11-12)**

#### **8. Feedback and Improvement:**

- How can we gather feedback from students about their experiences during the first semester?
- What processes can we implement to continuously improve the student journey based on their feedback?

#### **9. Reflection and Planning:**

- How can we encourage students to reflect on their first semester experiences and set goals for the next semester?
- What resources can we provide to help students plan their academic and personal development?

## **Start of Second Semester (Weeks 1-4)**

### **1. Re-Orientation and Community Building:**

- What re-orientation activities can we offer to help students re-engage with the university community after the break?
- How can we continue to foster a sense of belonging and community among students?

### **2. Academic Preparation:**

- What resources and support can we provide to help students transition smoothly into their second semester courses?
- How can we help students build on their first semester learning and prepare for more advanced topics?

## **Mid-Second Semester (Weeks 5-10)**

### **3. Career Development and Planning:**

- What career development workshops or events can we offer to help students start thinking about their future careers?
- How can we support students in gaining work experience, internships, or placements relevant to their field of study?

### **4. Ongoing Academic and Social Support:**

- How can we continue to provide academic support and advising to help students succeed in their studies?
- What social events or activities can we organize to keep students engaged and connected?

## **End of Second Semester (Weeks 11-15)**

### **5. Final Assessments and Feedback:**

- How can we help students prepare for their final assessments and exams?
- What feedback mechanisms can we implement to help students understand their progress and areas for improvement?

### **6. Transition to Next Year:**

- How can we support students in planning for their second year of study?

- What resources and guidance can we provide to help students transition smoothly to the next stage of their academic journey?

## **Summer Break**

### **7. Continued Engagement and Preparation:**

- What opportunities can we offer for students to stay engaged with the university community over the summer?
- How can we help students prepare for their second year, including any summer reading or preparatory work?

## **Start of Second Year**

### **8. Re-Engagement and Community Building:**

- What activities can we offer to help students re-engage with the university community at the start of their second year?
- How can we continue to build a sense of belonging and community among returning students?

# Second & Third Years

## Start of Second Year (Weeks 1-4)

### 1. Re-Engagement and Community Building:

- What activities can we offer to help students re-engage with the university community at the start of their second year?
- How can we continue to build a sense of belonging and community among returning students?

### 2. Advanced Academic Support:

- What resources and support can we provide to help students tackle more advanced topics and coursework?
- How can we ensure students have access to the necessary academic advising and support?

## Mid-Second Year (Weeks 5-20)

### 3. Career and Professional Development:

- What career development workshops or events can we offer to help students prepare for their future careers?
- How can we support students in gaining relevant work experience, internships, or placements?

### 4. Ongoing Academic and Social Support:

- How can we continue to provide academic support and advising to help students succeed in their studies?
- What social events or activities can we organize to keep students engaged and connected?

## End of Second Year (Weeks 21-35)

### 5. Final Assessments and Feedback:

- How can we help students prepare for their final assessments and exams?
- What feedback mechanisms can we implement to help students understand their progress and areas for improvement?

### 6. Transition to Third Year:

- How can we support students in planning for their third year of study?

- What resources and guidance can we provide to help students transition smoothly to the next stage of their academic journey?

## **Third Year**

### **Start of Third Year (Weeks 1-4)**

#### **7. Re-Engagement and Community Building:**

- What activities can we offer to help students re-engage with the university community at the start of their third year?
- How can we continue to build a sense of belonging and community among final-year students?

#### **8. Capstone Projects and Advanced Coursework:**

- What support can we provide for students working on dissertations/projects or advanced coursework?
- How can we ensure students have access to the necessary academic advising and resources?

### **Mid-Third Year (Weeks 5-20)**

#### **9. Career Preparation and Networking:**

- What career preparation workshops or events can we offer to help students transition to the workforce or further studies?
- How can we facilitate networking opportunities with alumni and industry professionals?

#### **10. Ongoing Academic and Social Support:**

- How can we continue to provide academic support and advising to help students succeed in their final year?
- What social events or activities can we organize to keep students engaged and connected?

### **End of Third Year (Weeks 21-35)**

#### **11. Final Assessments and Graduation:**

- How can we help students prepare for their final assessments and exams?

#### **12. Post-Graduation Planning:**

- How can we support students in planning for their post-graduation careers or further studies?
- What resources and guidance can we provide to help students transition smoothly to the next stage of their professional or academic journey?



# Pre-Arrival Activities and Materials Ideas

## 1. Interactive Online Modules:

- **Introductory Courses:** Short online courses with interactive elements like quizzes and videos to introduce key concepts.
- **Subject-Specific Tutorials:** Interactive tutorials on foundational topics relevant to the course.

## 2. Introduction to Course and Tutors:

- **Welcome Videos:** Personalized welcome videos from course leaders and tutors.
- **Virtual Meet-and-Greet:** Online sessions where students can meet their tutors and ask questions.

## 3. Peer Connections:

- **Online Forums:** Platforms where students can introduce themselves, share interests, and start discussions.
- **Social Media Groups:** Private groups on platforms like Facebook or WhatsApp for students to connect and communicate.
- **Buddy System:** Pairing new students with current students for informal support and guidance.

## 4. Guest Lectures:

- **Live Webinars:** Online guest lectures from industry professionals or alumni, with opportunities for Q&A.
- **Recorded Sessions:** Access to recorded guest lectures on relevant topics.

## 5. Subject-Specific Events:

- **Webinars and Q&A Sessions:** Host online events where students can ask questions and learn more about the course.
- **Guest Lectures:** Share recordings or live sessions with industry professionals or alumni via public platforms.