

ENHANCING TEACHING PRACTICE

Developing Academic Skills: An Innovative Approach.

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Developing independent learning skills is a key aim of higher education (Hockings et al. 2018). A common way in which students gain experience of independent learning is through coursework assignment. However, in order to undertake the required independent learning for this, students must first develop academic skills such as how to find, use and incorporate information and how to write effectively (Thompson, Pawson and Evans 2021). RGU provide some fantastic resources and support to aid in the development of these skills, such as those offered by Study Skills and the Library. However, and despite efforts at both course and university level, experience has shown that many students fail to engage in these resources. This presentation will showcase an innovative approach to raising awareness and increasing usage of these resources. This includes a virtual breakout room for students during induction to gently develop awareness of resources and support in a memorable way, an interactive flowchart which guides students through their first assignments with direct links to resources when required and the introduction of feedforward into the assignment marking process which directs students to relevant resources and support.

HOCKINGS, C., 2018. Independent learning—what we do when you're not there. *Teaching in Higher Education*, 23(2), pp.145-161.

THOMPSON, M., PAWSON, C. and EVANS, B., 2021. Navigating entry into higher education: the transition to independent learning and living. *Journal of Further and Higher Education*, 45(10), pp.1398-1410.