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Torn between worlds: co-creating compassionate classrooms for wellbeing and success.

NESHAT MOKADEM, L.

2023

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in @UKCISA | #UKCISA2023



TORN BETWEEN WORLDS...

Co-creating compassionate classrooms for wellbeing and success



Senior Lecturer – SFHEA – Course Leader **Equality Champion (RGU)** EDI co-ordinator (Pharmacy & Life Sciences) Advance HE Race Equality Charter Reviewer

Leila Neshat Mokadem (She/Her)





What will we cover today?

An Exploration of Barriers and Enablers for Student Success:

- The WHAT? what do we need to consider when designing compassionate classrooms? what did the students tell us...
- The WHY? why consider equity within and beyond classrooms
- The HOW? how to co-create inclusive curricula
- The WHERE? reflect on where we go from here







The WHAT?



Student Success Formula

Equity + Wellbeing + Inclusion = Student Success







Equity = enablers

e.g. Bespoke study skills, resilience building, developmental opportunities, peer mentorship



Wellbeing = course design, delivery & support

e.g. Timetable, assessments, feedback, support (academic & pastoral & tailored)

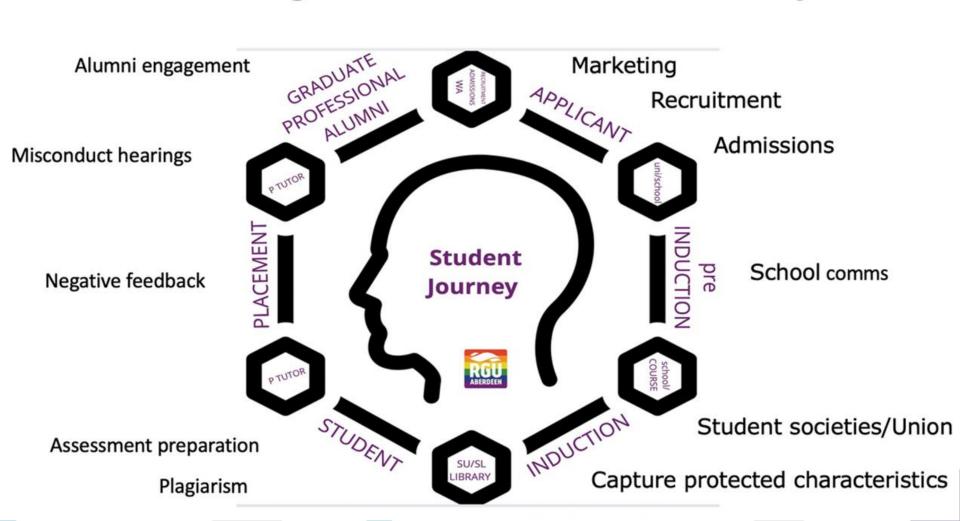


Inclusion = **student voice**, **co-creation**

e.g. Alumni engagement, inclusive curricula, representation, diverse role models

The WHY?

Transforming the APPLICANT to ALUMNI experience



When creating compassionate classrooms...

Do you consider - Equity, Wellbeing, Inclusion?

At each stage of the student journey?



INDUCTION STAGE

What challenges are our international students facing?





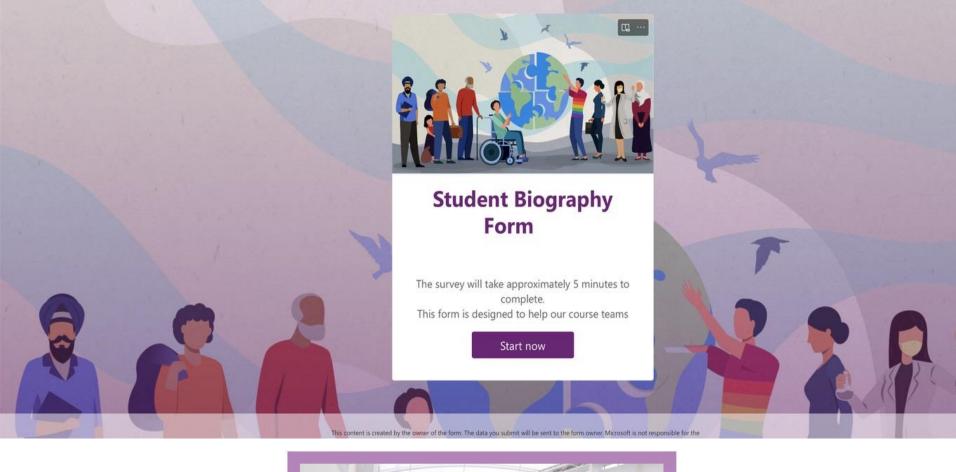




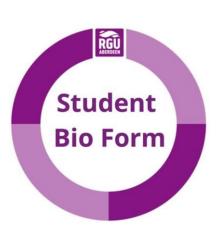


CL reflections...

- Induction transitioning stage
- Capture background info
- 'Bio data Survey' V1 2010, V4 2021







Section 3 - Personal Circumstances

Please share any circumstances that may impact your studies or wellbeing or for which you would like additional support.

Some examples are included below:

Are you currently pregnant? if so, expected due date:

Would you like any support with RGU breastfeeding facilities?

Do you have caring responsibilities? e.g childcare

Do you have any dependants with you in Aberdeen?

Are you undergoing any medical care?

Other circumstances:

Section 4 - Skills Needs Self-Assessment

Which of the following might be challenging for you when transitioning to UK study? Please tick all that apply:

- English language skills written/oral/understanding?
- · Academic writing skills
- · Presentation skills
- · Research skills
- Library literacy skills e.g literature reviews
- · Digital technology skills
- · Other:

Section 4 - Global Citizenship



Alt text: Students gather outdoors to walk and cheer for the RGU boat team.

We love to celebrate our learners from all over the world & we welcome you to help build a learning community for your cohort!

Photo: Wellbeing walk & cheering for RGU boat race team!

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Please suggest any celebratory events/dates that you would like to enjoy with your class:

Photo: In class baby shower!



What did students say?



"Every night my kids plead with me to come back home. The call ends in tears, then I have to sit and write my assignment. It's really hard"



What did we do?



Bio data survey results (2019)

Barrier

- caring responsibilities
- financial pressures
- placements & faith dates
- wellbeing challenges

Enabler

Course re-design

- Structure
- Timetable



Outcome

- All 5 modules timetabled to start at 10am
- Placements dates to avoid faith & belief celebrations

Equity + Wellbeing + Inclusion = Student Success

The HOW...









CL + Cohort **partnership** discussions

New **flexible** course structure: Remote supervision model 9mo + 3mo = MSc Identified stakeholders

Collaborations

Documentation Communication

Support networks

Reduced financial burden Improved: Wellbeing Engagement Success (SEQ data)



Course

Course Team Cohort MSc Supervisors



Stakeholder | Collaborations

School

Strategic Lead Dean **Admin Team**

University

International **Immigration** Marketing Recruitment Admissions

External

Sponsors **Employers** Ministry of Health Workplace Supervisors In country Agents

Impact on students?

"This innovative idea had many benefits not only in my professional area but also positively affected my **psychological status** as I returned home with my kids and family and my **excellent academic results** reflect this. I think this model could be valuable for future students on this course."

Hana MSc student (2019-2020)

The WHY!



Celebrating International Student success!

- Collaborative research showcase day underpinned by a pedagogy of compassion and equity for success
- Global attracting audiences from Ministry of Health and clinical directors, employers...
- Success beyond the classroom skills
- Dissemination highlighted to RGU colleagues a novel way of creating a positive research culture.





النهضة ينظم ملتقي علميا للتعليم والأبحاث في مجال الصيدلة





وعن دور الصيدلة الاكلينيكية

دوائي ريفير وكسييان والوافرين



ن أهمية الملتقى الذي يتم تنظيمه لأول مبرة، كما تحدث عن الأبحاث الصيدلانية والتعليم الصيدلاني الذي يتم مناقشته ودراسته خلال

"This was the first time (in the school) that the student's success was celebrated in their respective country and provided an impetus for all colleagues to consider what else may be possible with respect to creative design thinking."

Prof Anita Weidmann

بالملكة المتحدة وتجربتهم لها بعد

التعليم الصيدلاني، وللموظفين الذين يرغبون في إكمال دراساتهم العليا بالملكة المتحدة في الضترة

في ختام الملتقى قيام الدكتور حمد الحارشي مدير مستشفى النهضة بتكريم المحاضرين والطلبة





بالمنتقى مجموعة من المحاضرات

مدها قدم عدد من المشاركين

WHERE are we now?

How do we achieve equity with study away model?





WHERE are we now?



The course staff have provided a strong support system for us international students and I was so happy with the in-class baby shower! International students are really very welcome at RGU.

Ewere Vivian Okafor (from Nigeria)

Student Success





"The course really was exceptional, with different learning styles, and inclusive for all learners. The peer-to-peer learning gave me confidence and developed my critical thinking skills. The Resilient Learner series developed my coping skills in tackling obstacles and it has had a significant impact on my wellbeing. I enjoyed sharing traditions and cultures as part of the Global Citizenship approach of the course."

Sameh Al Maqbali (from Oman)

www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk//en/news-events/blog/where-did-your-edi-journey-begin

Where next?

QAA Enhancement Funded project



SEE ME, HEAR ME

When creating compassionate classrooms...

Do you consider - Equity, Wellbeing, Inclusion?

At each stage of the student journey?







Thank you!



Please feel free to leave feedback/comments/collaboration details ©



