The Art of surviving and thriving: a framework for mature learners.
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The Student Ambassador scheme gives you fantastic skills to put on your CV. It makes you confident, you participate in events you do not normally know how to do. You build up skills even realising it.

“I had not written an essay since I was at school, my biggest fear was how people would read what I have written.”

“End of Year Show tours”

“I was very happy to find out there were 10 mature students on my course”

“The whole bit at the end is as important as the bit at the beginning.”

Bespoke & individual campus tours
Mature Learner Easter School
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
Mock Interviews
FE to HE Orientation Day
Mature Students Welcome
Student Ambassador Scheme
1 to 1 Careers planning
Creative Networks Talks
Start up Incubation Units
Communities of Artists, Designers & Makers

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.

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.

References