



# Student Consultation Meetings & Induction

Student Charter Value 6

Student Case Study

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## Student Charter:

The Open University is more than just a place of learning – it's a community. As members of the OU community, we – staff and students – have responsibilities to each other, which, when met, allow all members to achieve their full potential and the University to flourish. The University and Students Association take the Student Charter, developed jointly, very seriously and are fully committed to its implementation. It sets out what we can all expect of each other and is a declaration of our shared values rather than a rule book.

## Value 6:

The Student Charter has 12 values. This case study relates to value 6:

*We actively support authentic student engagement in University decision-making, closing the feedback loop; and commit to building partnership between staff and students.*

For this value we have two case studies, one that relates to staff and one that relates to students. This case study is for staff and demonstrates how the Open University is committed to value 6.

# Student Consultation Meetings & Induction:

Student Consultation Meetings are annual face-to-face Student Consultation Meetings for 20-50 students organised by the Student Consultation Team in England and by the OU in Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and all student online meetings. Previously, these were staff-facilitated workshop style events where students are asked to give their views about matters affecting their student experience, usually on two main topics and one 'ice-breaker' topic.

In 2024, these meetings form part of the wider Student Voice Festival event in February/March. These will now contain three problem-solving type workshops, which will allow students to become more involved in not only giving the Open Uni feedback but to work on and pitch solutions to solve issues that students face.

In 2022/23, one of the topics posed to students as the Student Consultation Meetings was Student Induction.

Students were asked:

1. How many of you remember induction activities when you started with the OU?
2. Did the induction activities give you everything you needed to get started at the OU? Scale of 1 - 5, with 5 being you felt they give you everything you needed.

3. To what extent did the induction-related information and guidance you received at the OU support you in feeling ready to start your studies?
4. What activities should there be for students who register before the final date for registration?
5. What should be the main priority for the OU's induction provision?
6. What should we call the new induction module?
7. Students were also given proposed Learning Outcomes for the new Induction module and asked - What do you feel are the most important things that would support these and describe any areas you think we're missing?

After the meetings, we reported back to the students with a [summary of their feedback](#) and then a [full response](#).

We were pleased to report back to students that:

*The OU is undertaking a project to improve students' induction experience and preparedness for study. The project entails the development of a new induction website and induction activities to be presented to students 4-6 weeks before their module start date. We hope that this will help students ease their transition to their learning environments earlier and enable them to feel more informed, supported, and confident in their preparedness for successful study. The new induction experience was piloted across 7 modules in August 2023.*

Student Consultation Meetings are an annual process and staff can propose a topic for these meeting in the Winter. Student Consultation Online Forums can be run year-round; therefore, staff are welcome to propose topics for student feedback via a forum, poll, and bespoke Student Consultation Meeting. For more information, please visit the [Student Voice Hub](#).

