

prepare for success

How to use Prepare for Success with international students: A guide for UK institutions

1. Introduction

These guidelines suggest a number of ways in which UK institutions can use the learning resources on the *Prepare for Success* (PfS) website to help their international students prepare for academic study. They include examples of how other FE and HE institutions have linked to the website or used individual resources from it, for example by copying and pasting links into an institutional VLE.

2. Modes of use

Here are some ways in which UK institutions are already using *Prepare for Success*:



2.1. Link to PfS from your own website, welcome pack or in email communication

The simplest and quickest method of using PfS to support your incoming international students is by incorporating a direct link to the PfS homepage in your institution's main website or departmental (e.g. International Office; Language Centre) website. These links can be accompanied by a short explanation of what *Prepare for Success* offers international students.

Links to the PfS website can also be made in email communications to students and agents, and in institutional welcome packs online. See these examples of links from institutional websites and welcome packs:

The image shows three examples of how links to the Prepare for Success website are used in institutional communications:

- Example 1:** A green box with the text "Find out about our next trips." and "Prepare for Success". Below it, a larger green box says "Get ready for studying at Southampton: the [Prepare for Success website](#) includes details about British academic culture and study skills."
- Example 2:** A green box with the text "About their experience at the University of Southampton." and "International Welcome Week". Below it, a larger green box says "We offer a free Meet and Greet service from Heathrow airport and a programme of welcome activities to all new international students. [Find out more and register here.](#)"
- Example 3:** A blue box with the text "Prepare for Success" and a right-pointing arrow. Below it, a photo of a woman in a red headscarf is shown next to the text "Visit the [Prepare for Success website](#) to learn more about the UK, British culture and what to expect when you get here."

At the bottom left, a red box contains a star icon, the text "Find out more", and the URL www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/

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2.2. Embed links in a pre-arrival course for your international students

Your institution may already offer its international students the option of a pre-arrival course through a Virtual Learning Environment such as Blackboard or Moodle. If so, you can select learning resources from PfS to link to and offer them alongside your own institutional materials. The resources will then appear as part of your own course. See this example from a pre-arrival online course for international students:

The screenshot shows a course page titled "Arrive UK: An Online Course about Living and Studying in the UK". It lists several resources:

- [Finding out about Southampton](#): These activities will introduce you to some important facts and points of interest about the city in which you will be living.
- [The language challenge](#): In these activities you will listen to some international students and a university tutor talking about culture challenges for students coming to the UK. You will also assess yourself to find out how ready you are for the culture challenge ahead.
- 2 Week 2 (3 May - 9 May): Living in Southampton**
 - [Adapting to a new life](#): In these activities you will listen to some international students and tutors talking about typical language challenges that students face when they first arrive. You will also assess how prepared you are for such challenges and explore different ways of improving your English language skills before you come to the UK.
 - [You and the British](#): In these activities you are going to reflect on your own experience of Britain and the British. You will also explore some common views about the British character and behaviour and consider whether these views are accurate or not.
 - [Travelling to and from Southampton](#): Getting around by train, bus, boat or plane in a new country can be quite an adventure. These activities will introduce you to the different means of transport available to you while you are living in Britain. They will help you to select the best form of transport for you.

Annotations on the left side of the screenshot:

- "Links to Prepare for Success resources" points to the first three resource links.
- "Institution's own resources" points to the Week 2 section and its sub-resources.

To embed PfS links in a VLE, you simply need to insert links to the individual web pages of resources that you have selected. Each individual learning resource has its own web address, see the example below and section 3.

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window. The address bar contains the URL http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/the_language_challenge.html, which is circled in red. The page content includes the "prepare for success" logo, the title "The language challenge", a quote: "If you always keep company with people from your own country, you run the risk of not improving your English. - Anastasia", and a link to an "accessible version".

2.3. Use PfS learning resources for teaching on pre-sessional courses and post-arrival induction courses

If your international students have already arrived and are being introduced to study skills and prepared for British academic culture on pre-sessional or induction course you can select activities from the PfS website to blend with your classroom teaching. All that is required in the classroom is a data projector and screen together with a teaching computer linked to the internet. The activities can be blended with face-to-face classroom teaching and can be adapted easily for pair or group work discussion as well as whole class interaction using one of the activities on screen.

3. List of resource titles, descriptions and web page addresses for copying and pasting

It is recommended that you copy and paste the description as well as the title and link address (underlined) from the following list when selecting a resource to use as described in section 2.2.

About Prepare for Success

http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/about_prepare_for_success.html

Find out how you can use Prepare for Success.

Differences in university study

http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/differences_in_university_study.html

Listen to international students talking about differences in study they experienced when they came to the UK. Find out what differences there might be for you.

The language challenge

http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/the_language_challenge.html

How prepared are you for the language challenge ahead? Watch a video to learn how other international students faced the challenge when they arrived and find out how you can prepare yourself.

Ways of being taught on your course

http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/ways_of_being_taught_on_your_course.html

Explore four common ways of being taught on university courses in the UK. Find out what to expect in a lecture, a seminar, a tutorial and a workshop.

Preparing for online study

http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/preparing_for_online_study.html

Do a quiz to discover how much of your time will be spent online during your studies. Listen to a university tutor talking about the technologies that students use on the course that she teaches.

Adapting to a new life

http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/adapting_to_a_new_life.html

Watch a video in which students talk about the cultural challenges for students coming to the UK. Then assess yourself to find out how ready you are for them.

Studying independently

http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/studying_independently.html

Consider different advice about how to study independently and then assess your own study habits.

Academic writing at university

http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/academic_writing_at_university.html

Do a quiz to find out how prepared you are for the academic writing you will need to do at a British university.

Critical thinking

http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/critical_thinking.html

Explore what critical thinking involves and identify any skills that you might need to develop.

Understanding course assignments

http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/understanding_course_assignments.html

Compare course assignments in the UK with those in your home country and practise interpreting essay titles set by British university tutors.

Using what you read in your academic writing

http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/using_what_you_read_in_your_academic_writing.html

Learn about the correct ways to reference what you read in your own writing. Find out how to avoid plagiarism.

Your relationship with your tutors

http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/your_relationship_with_your_tutors.html

Listen to a British student talking about his relationship with his tutors. Do a quiz to find out what to expect of university tutors in the UK.

Using study time effectively

http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/using_study_time_effectively.html

Discover what the best study routine for you might be. Practise organising a day's timetable for an international student on a university course in the UK.

Managing your course work

http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/managing_your_course_work.html

Consider how you would manage the production of a 2000-word assignment.

Taking part in seminars

http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/taking_part_in_seminars.html

Listen to a British university tutor talking about what seminars are like and explaining what is expected of students.

Listening to lectures

http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/listening_to_lectures.html

Find out how lectures in the UK might be different from those you have attended before and listen for clues in a lecture that can help your understanding.

Reading for your course

http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/reading_for_your_course.html

Find out how you can manage your course reading list and learn to read more efficiently.

Skills for presenting in seminars

http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/skills_for_presenting_in_seminars.html

Think about the skills you will need if you are asked to give a presentation on your course. Watch a video of a student presenting to identify some useful techniques.

Working with others

http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/working_with_others.html

Discover what group work involves and the kind of skills that students need to work together effectively.

Preparing for course work and exams

http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/preparing_for_course_work_and_exams.html

Listen to an interview with a student comparing exams in the UK with exams in her home country. Identify ways to deal with some common course work problems.

Settling down to study

http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/settling_down_to_study.html

Listen to student advice on how to settle down to study in the UK. Find out about an exciting competition for international students.

Reaching the end and taking the next step

http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/reaching_the_end_and_taking_the_next_step.html

Do a fun quiz to find out how much you remember. Send some feedback to us on what you think of Prepare for Success.