

prepare for success 

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

1. Introduction

This guide suggests a number of ways in which teachers and 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 UK FE and HE institutions have linked to the website or used individual resources from it.

2. Modes of use

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



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

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, departmental or service website (e.g. International Office; Language Centre; Student Services). Optional PfS logos are available for you to download from the PfS website for this purpose. The link can be accompanied by description of what Prepare for Success is or offers international students taken from the homepage of PfS.

Such links are already being used by institutions in email communications to students and agents, and in online welcome packs. See these examples of links from institutional websites and welcome packs:

Examples of institutional website links and welcome packs for 'Prepare for Success':

- Prepare for Success**: Get ready for studying at Southampton: the [Prepare for Success website](#) includes details about British academic culture and study skills.
- International Welcome Week**: 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.](#)
- Prepare for Success**: Visit the [Prepare for Success website](#) to learn more about the UK, British culture and what to expect when you get here.

Find out more
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 or through a web-based resource. You may select individual learning resources from PfS to link to and offer them alongside your own institutional materials. These resources will then appear as part of your own course. See this example from a pre-arrival online course for international students:

Links to Prepare for Success resources

Institution's own resources

Arrive UK: An Online Course about Living and Studying in the UK

- [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.

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 language challenge - Mozilla Firefox

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

prepare for success

The language challenge

→ [accessible version](#)

If you always keep company with people from your own country, you run the risk of not improving your English. - Anastasia

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 by projecting the activities onto a screen.

You can also make your students aware of the PfS website and encourage them to use it as an independent learning resource by downloading and displaying the A4 colour poster from the PfS website.

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.

Studying science, engineering or technology

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

Find out what particular skills and abilities students studying science, engineering or technology need, and explore the range of writing tasks you may be required to do on your course.

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.