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10 steps to engage your first year students

The questions you should be able to answer

one **Addressing student expectations**
Have prospective students been provided with sufficient, clear information regarding DIT programmes, student life and student supports? Have various modes of communication and information been utilised i.e. open days, campus visits, social networking?

two **Points of entry**
Have prospective students access to clear information on the process of applying to DIT? In the relevant information, have all entry routes (non-standard, CAO) and entry requirements (additional requirements such as interviews/portfolios, etc.) been addressed?

three **Pre-arrival**
On acceptance of a place, are students welcomed to the DIT community? How do they receive information on registrations, induction and first days as a DIT student?

four **Initial induction**
Is there a clear, consistent and co-ordinated induction plan? How are students assisted in making the initial academic, social and emotional transition to tertiary level education? How will students be introduced to academic and support staff, and each other?

five **Establishing effective lines of communication and interaction**
Is there a planned strategy to continue the integration of students in to the DIT community? Have students been assigned to, and welcomed by their tutor? Have tutors received training support? Can student interaction be encouraged through peer mentoring programmes?

six **Monitoring transition**
How will student non-attendance be monitored and managed? Have the differences between second and third level learning been discussed with students?

seven **Managing academic transition**
Are there strategies in place to facilitate students in managing the academic transition? Are there elements of a first year transition pedagogy which can be implemented (e.g. pre-lecture resources, increased levels of formative assessment)? Are students clearly advised regarding exam preparation? How will students be assisted in maintaining a link to the DIT community in the "between semesters" period?

eight **Semester 2 transition/re-entry**
Are students formally introduced to semester 2 studies? Is there individual support for student post-exam results? Is there a strategy for a continuance of attendance monitoring, assessment feedback, etc.?

nine **Concluding year 1**
Is there a formal conclusion to, and review of, Year 1? Are students encouraged to look forward to Year 2? Have students received clear information regarding the summer examinations process? Is there support for students who are unsuccessful in the summer examinations?

ten **Looking forward to year 2**
Is there a clear re-entry welcome to Year 2 of the programme?