

## **2-6F Learning from the experiences of students living at home: what can we do to make it better?**

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“Living at Home” or “commuting” students are as a group at higher risk of not progressing with their academic studies and can be more disengaged and are more likely to withdraw from their studies. The University of Glasgow has a high proportion of students from the local area (approximately 40% of undergraduate students). Previous initiatives from the University to enhance engagement and retention of the students living at home lead to the organisation of very successful events such as the Local Student Orientation (Browitt, 2015). Following from this we aimed to identify what actions can we put in place to enhance the student experience of students living at home when studying? How can we make their academic experience better and create an accessible and inclusive student environment? In collaboration with the Student Representative Council we engaged with students living at home and enquired about their academic experiences and what obstacles and enablers faced during their studies. We particularly explored what resources they value at the University, where they found the most support from and any what changes would enhance their student experience. We have conducted focus groups to explore their personal experiences and how these are shaped through their academic progression. Drawing from their experiences students were asked to impart the most important advice for the new local students. Based on these a list of 10 top - tips was created and shared with new local students started their academic degree at the University of Glasgow following their Local Student Orientation event. Students that lived at home for part of their studies were actively involved in the project and will join staff to present the findings and the process of the initiative.

### **References**

Browitt and Croll (2015) Enhancing engagement of local ‘commuter’ students at induction to support transition and promote student retention and success