

Set-up and implementation plan

Skills4studycampus can be used in a variety of ways to meet a range of learning needs. This implementation plan illustrates the set-up choice, roll out plan, initial experiences and planned next steps for Bournemouth University (skills4studycampus subscribers since August 2011).

Background:

Bournemouth University subscribed to skills4studycampus in August 2011. The resource was made available through the Academic Skills Community, within the myBU student portal, which hosts additional resources to help develop students' academic skills and allows students to arrange one-to-one sessions with advisors. skills4studycampus is available to Bournemouth University's 17,000 students including their 1,172 international students.

Purchasing skills4studycampus:

skills4studycampus was purchased by the Library Procurement and System Development Manager, Chris Spencer and James Tudor, the Subject Librarian. Neil Ford, the Academic Liaison Development Manager has taken over since James Tudor's retirement. The resource was purchased to integrate with and complement the support offered through the existing Academic Skills community.

Access:

The university chose Shibboleth authentication for their set-up, which allows students to make use of Single Sign On functionality, on and off campus, and to access the resource using their pre-existing usernames and passwords.

Marketing of skills4studycampus:

Bournemouth University used a variety of methods to promote the resource to students, including:

- **Creation of a pre-arrival page** ([see example here](#)). Over the summer, students received an email from the University, encouraging them to 'register' on skills4studycampus if they were a new student, or 'login' for existing users. The page resulted in a noticeable increase in pre-arrival usage
- **Facebook campaigns** were run, using themed postings to highlight the resource and other study skills support activities
- **Notifications through the VLE** were set up to inform users about the availability of the resource

- **Customised posters** were displayed in the University
- **The deep-linking functionality** was used to direct students to specific pages on skills4studycampus ([see example here](#))
- **Regular newsletters** were sent to the Peer-Assisted Learning Mentors and continue to be sent on a regular basis

Usage:

Since skills4studycampus was first made available to students at Bournemouth University, the number of students using the resource has more than doubled.

In 2011, the first year that skills4studycampus was available to students, the *Reading and note-making* module saw particularly heavy usage. The University used this statistic to recognise a need amongst the students and have since provided additional workshops which cover reading and note-making skills.

skills4studycampus has been promoted to all students, however the University suspects that International and widening participation students are particularly heavy users and will be evaluating the statistics to determine whether there is a link and will use this knowledge to inform the promotion of skills4studycampus to these groups moving forward.

In July 2013, Bournemouth University decided to add the Time Management module to their subscription and will be monitoring future usage.

Next steps:

Bournemouth University will continue to focus on understanding how to integrate skills4studycampus with their other resources. The University plan to encourage academic staff to refer students to skills4studycampus by using the deep-linking URLs in their units within the myBU VLE.

Additionally they will be speaking to the Student Union and the Health Care department as they feel this resource will be especially useful for their students to use when they are out on their placements.

The University is keen to better understand how the resource is being used and will be looking at carrying out focus groups with staff and students.

BU Bournemouth University

Home
 Pre-arrival Activities
 Library & Learning
 Students' Union
 Accommodation
 Things to do
 Transport and Safety
 Academic Timetable
 IT
 International Students
 Additional Learning Support
 Communicating with you
 Fees and Funding
 Living on a budget

myBU

skills4study CAMPUS

Pre-arrival Activities

We hope you can't wait to get started at BU. With this in mind, you may want to access information to help you prepare for your course.

1. Once you have completed your online registration, you will be able to log in to myBU, your online learning environment.
2. In myBU, you will find a community called Pre-Arrival Activity (2012) where you will find a wealth of online materials for you to interact with before you arrive. These activities are specific to your school or course and include introductions from staff as well as suggested books, journals and websites that will help you to prepare for your studies.
3. Take a look through the sections listed under your course title and please complete the 'about me' questionnaire (this may not be present for all schools).
4. You will also find a discussion board where you can start academic conversations with other new students before you arrive.
5. In addition to your Pre-Arrival Activities, there is also a useful resource Skills4Study which will help equip you with the skills needed to study at

[Figure 1: Pre-arrival page]

Reading & Writing

Reading & Note-taking

skills4study

- Reading effectively Learn to select relevant material, including Using Reading Lists and get the greatest benefit from your reading.
- Making notes while reading - how to make useful notes that work for you, and learn valuable shortcuts.
- Making notes during lectures - how to listen actively to your lectures whilst making effective notes.

Note: When you first click on one of these links you will be prompted to **log in with your University account** and then redirected to the Skills4Study home page. To access the specific content you must return to this page and click again on the content that you wished to view. You **will not** be prompted to log in again for Skills4Study content and further links **will not** be redirected.

Academic Writing: Recognising, Planning and Developing

skills4study

- Academic writing: type, features and frameworks
- How to plan your writing: organisation and structures
- Developing your writing: writing drafts; using paragraphs; linking ideas together; editing and refining; style
- Improving your writing: understanding what is expected; what

Note: When you first click on one of these links you will be prompted to **log in with your University account** and then redirected to the Skills4Study home page. To access the

[Figure 2: Reading and note-taking link example]