

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS)

'PASS was the best thing that could have happened to me academically and for the first time I am actually enjoying education.'

PASS Participant



Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) gives students an opportunity to work together and discuss their learning. PASS sessions are weekly or fortnightly one hour study groups for students who are new to an academic module. Sessions are facilitated by student Leaders in higher years.

The PASS Leaders are trained facilitators who support groups of student Participants in lower years by helping them find solutions to academic problems through discussions and guided questioning. PASS does not replace teaching by staff, but offers instead another opportunity for students to build confidence, consolidate and enhance their learning.

PASS Leaders encourage active learning in an informal, friendly and fun environment. The focus is on key modules identified by the Schools' academic leads and students.

PASS offers a safe, friendly space to help students:

- Adjust quickly to University Life
- Improve their study habits
- Enhance their understanding of the subject matter of their course through collaborative learning
- Enhance their awareness of course direction and expectations

Benefits to Leaders

- Consolidating their own learning
- Developing personal and employability skills such as: confidence, time-management, presenting, leadership, collaboration, initiative

Benefits to Participants

- Deepening their understanding of key concepts
- Testing learning in safe environment
- Getting used to university life

Benefits to Schools:

- Flexible and can be delivered as an 'opt-in' or an 'opt-out' scheme that's embedded in the timetable.
- Contributes to building a culture of learning
- Resolves many student questions
- Enables immediate feedback on learning
- Underpins enquiry-based and personalised learning

PASS is successful because it is discipline-owned and student-led



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'The main reason why PASS has been useful was because it helped me to keep up with Russian as a beginner.'

PASS Participant

PASS Case Study – Russian Studies

The Russian Studies PASS scheme has been running for two years and supports the first year intensive beginners' Russian course. Russian Studies adopted a voluntary opt-in scheme with a number of PASS sessions time-tabled throughout the week.

The academic lead actively promoted and supported the PASS leaders to develop their skills and resources for the PASS sessions.

PASS has been seen positively by those attending Open Days and Applicant Visit Days and helped to attract applicants to the course, who see it as an additional form of support for students.

PASS has been cited very positively in module evaluation questionnaires.

Value to student participants

- Aiding transition and induction to university academic and social life
- Promoting reflection and 'learning how to learn'
- By opting-in to PASS, participants take responsibility for their own learning

Value to PASS Leaders

- PASS is a great opportunity to develop skills working with groups
- The development of employability skills, particularly critical thinking, confidence, effective questioning, leadership and presentation skills
- Recapping and consolidating 1st year work, especially grammar



'I've really enjoyed meeting and supporting the first year students.'

PASS Leader



For further information, contact the academic lead:
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