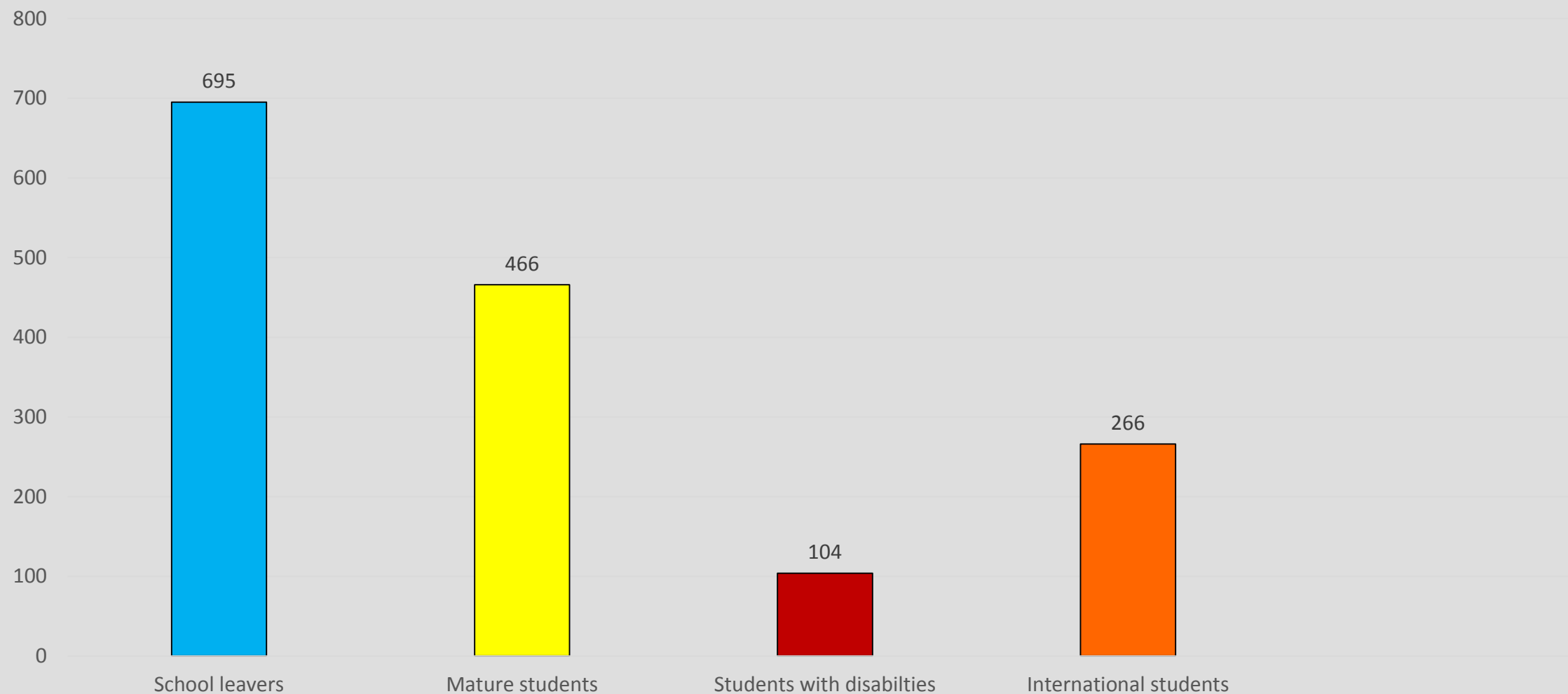# One size does not fit all – a holistic approach to helping a diverse student population make the successful transition to academic life in an Irish Institute of Higher Education
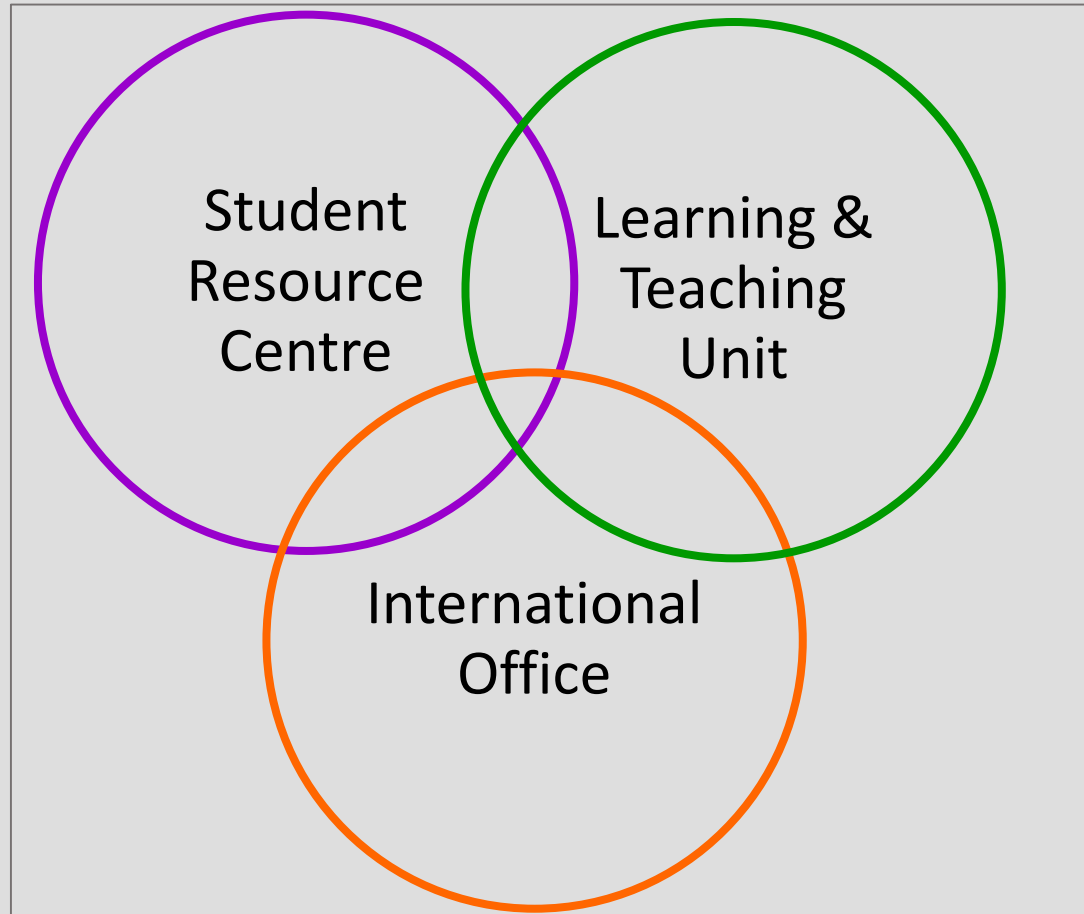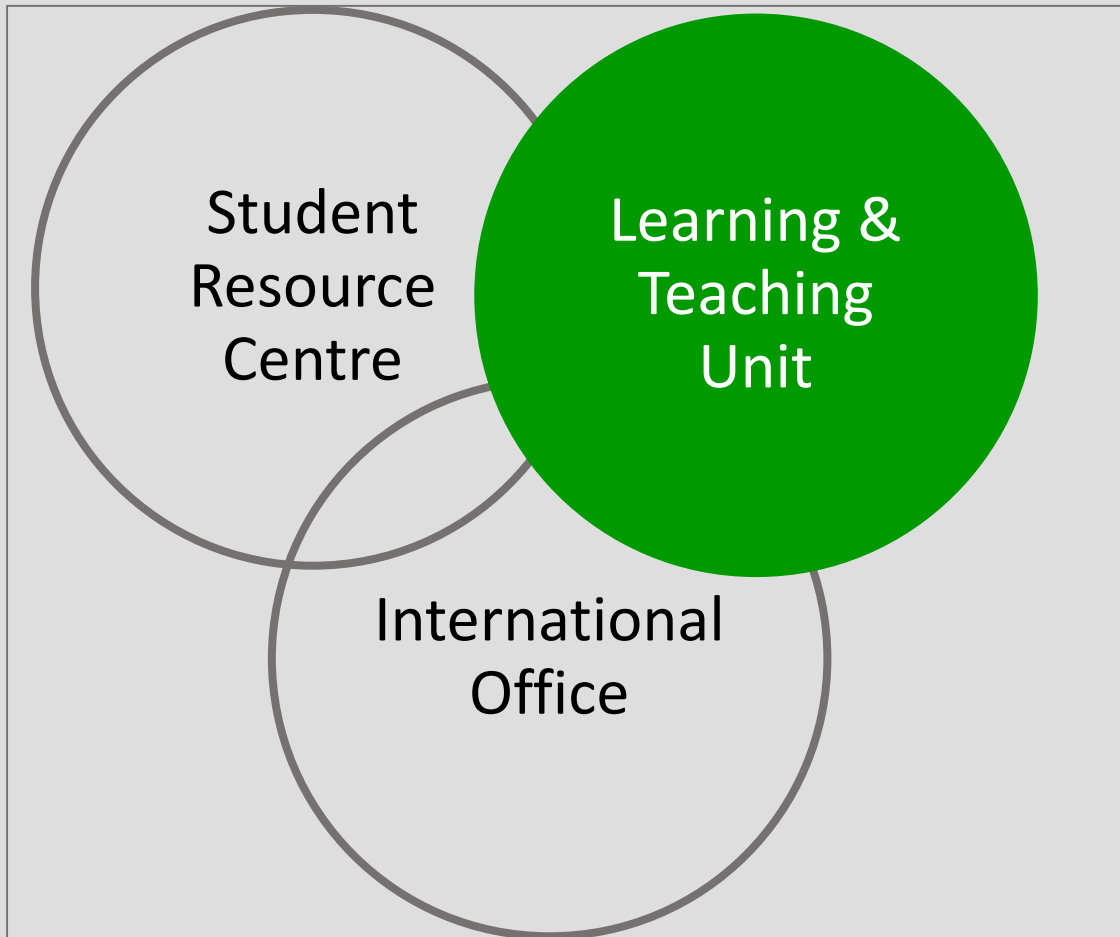
Aoife Walsh, Eimear Kelly, Helen Howley; Athlone Institute of Technology, Ireland

Diverse population of first year students

Aoife Walsh, Eimear Kelly, Helen Howley; Athlone Institute of Technology, Ireland

Three-pronged approach to helping students make the transition to third level

Student Resource Centre

Learning & Teaching Unit

International Office

Aoife Walsh, Eimear Kelly, Helen Howley; Athlone Institute of Technology, Ireland

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Learning 2 Learn (L2L):

- Contextualised to each discipline area using active learning techniques
- Key academic skills, i.e. ICT, creativity, innovation, teamwork, note-taking, writing assignments, reflective learning

Continuous Staff Development:

- Creating an Inclusive Curriculum
- Reflective practice

# Three-pronged approach to helping students make the transition to third level

Student Resource Centre

Learning & Teaching Unit

International Office
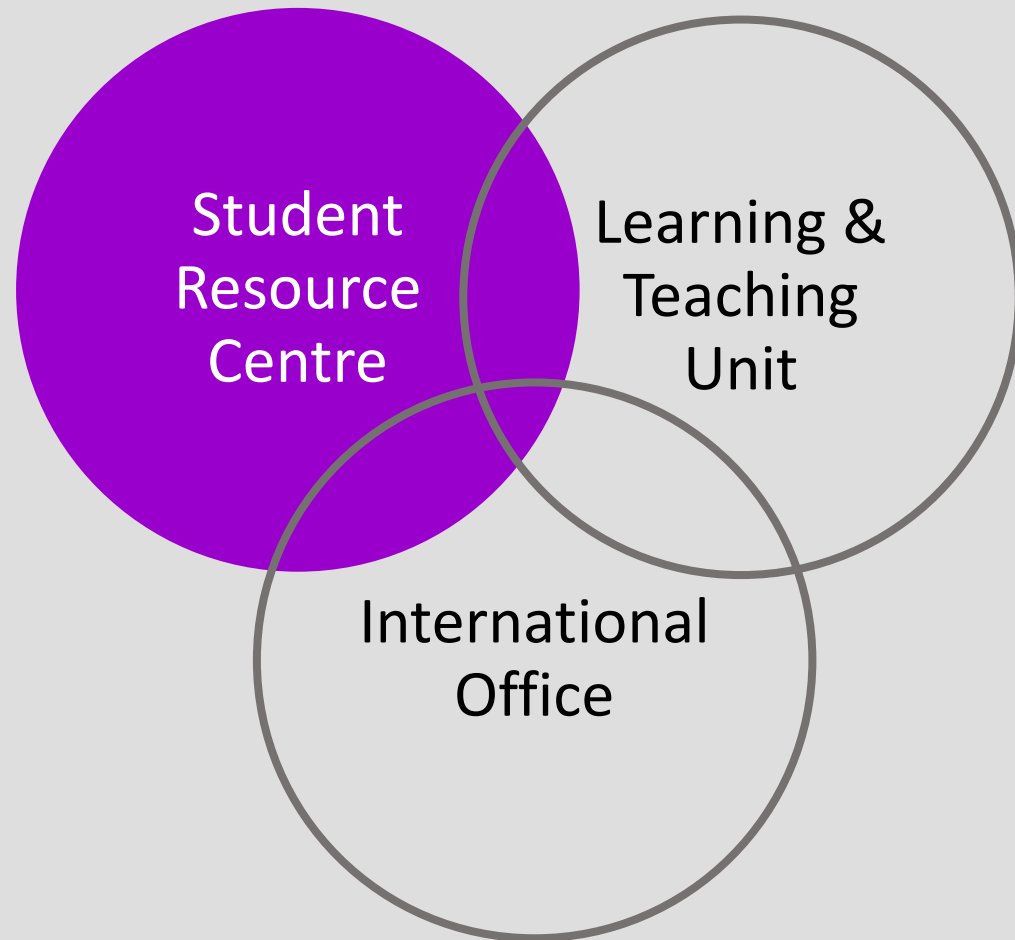
Peer Assisted Student Support (PASS)

- Second year students facilitate timetabled study sessions for first years

AIT Engage:

- Collaboration between the Student Resource Centre and the AIT Students' Union clubs and societies
- Aimed at promoting student engagement and integration

Three-pronged approach to helping students make the transition to third level

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International Office
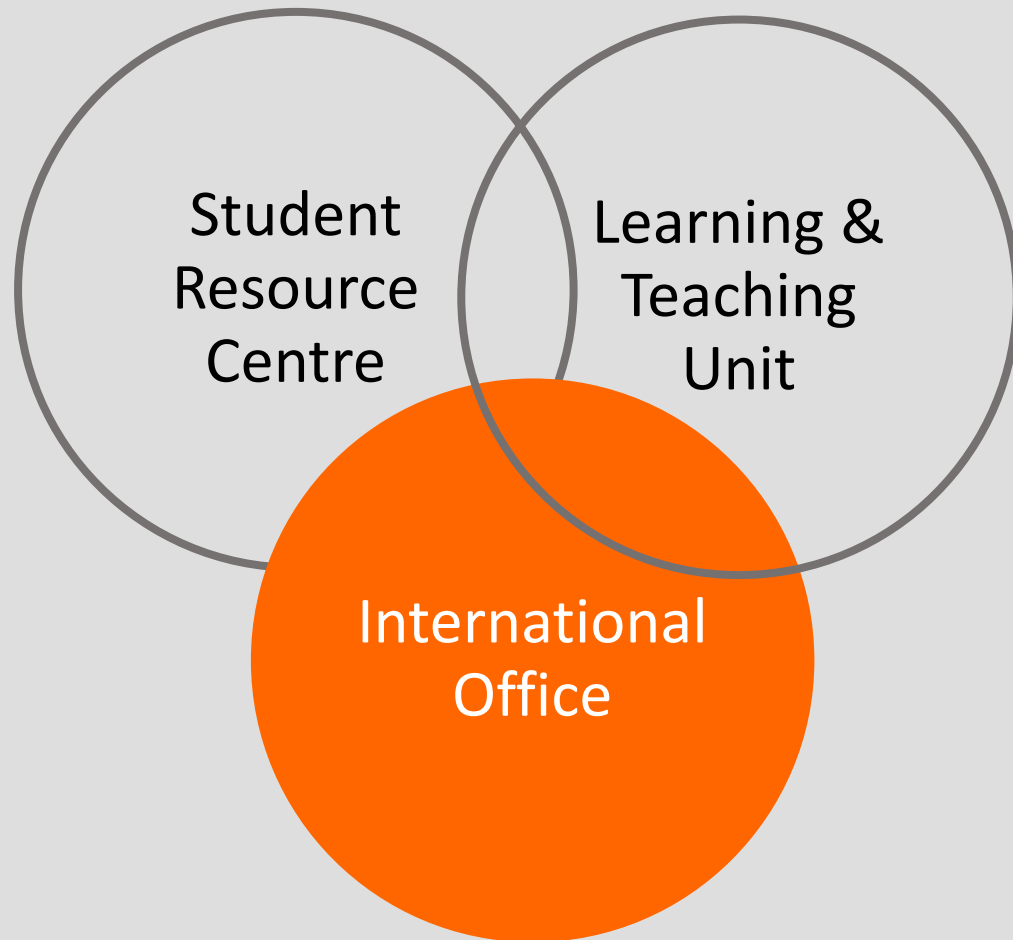
Practical pastoral and academic supports

Developing Academic Practice (DAP):
- A second language directed approach to L2L
- Academic culture
- Learning strategies and research skills
- Reflective learning
- Self-directed learning and critical thinking skills
- Intercultural communication
- Teamwork in a cross-cultural context
- Presentations