

Pathways to Success: Early Wins in the TUS Transitions and Student Success Strategy

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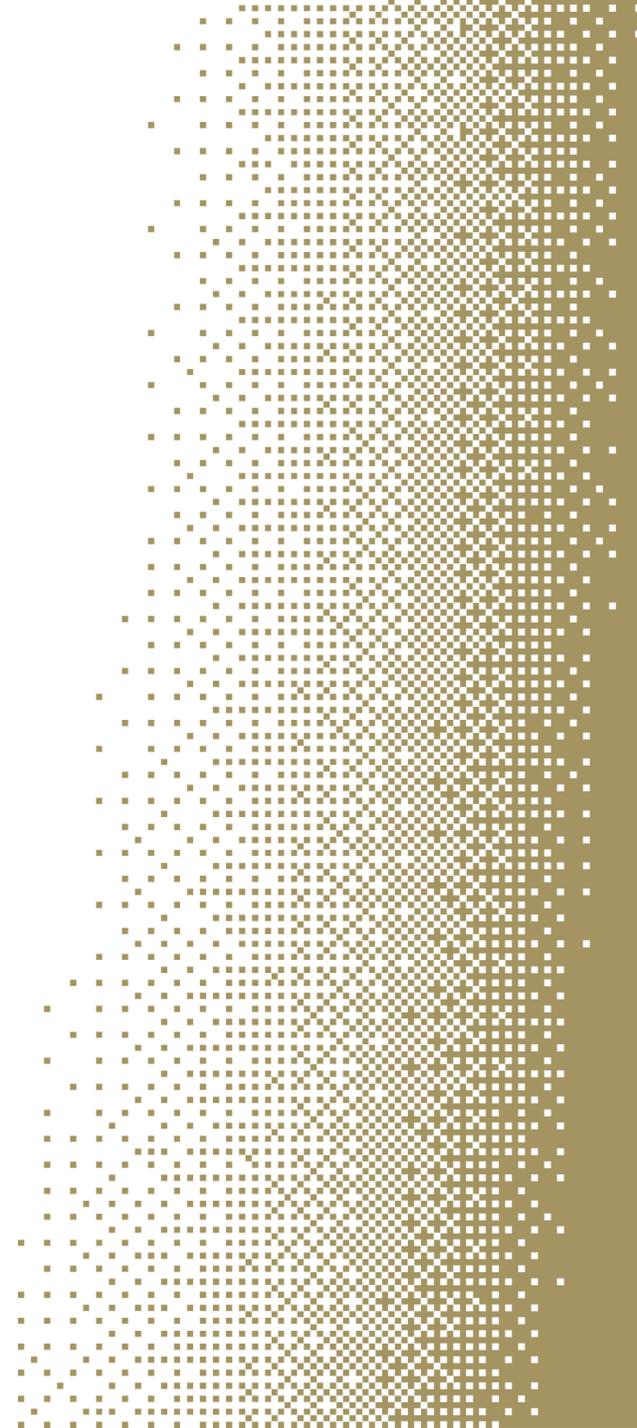
Introduction – key influences on positioning Student Success in TUS



- Tradition of IOT/ TU Sector - Widening Access & Participation
- Technological Universities Act 2018
- Establishment of TUS in October 2021
- TUS Strategic Plan 2022-2025: Mission and values influence
- Vice President role and influence:
 - Access, Graduate Opportunities, Future Studies etc.
- Published TUS Transitions & Student Success Strategy, February 2023
- TUS – HEA Systems Performance Agreement
- Today's Focus – Student Success

Informed by External Drivers and Policy Context

- National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030
- NFTL - *Understanding and Enabling Student Success in Higher Education*
- 7Cs Student Success Toolkit
- National Access Plan 2022 to 2028
- Supporting a Better Transition from the Second Level to Higher Education
- Transition from Further Education and Training to Higher Education
- Further Education and Training (FET) Progression to Higher Education (HE) – Transitions Reform Working Paper
- Entry to Higher Education in Ireland in the 21st Century
- Higher Education Systems Performance Framework 2023-2028



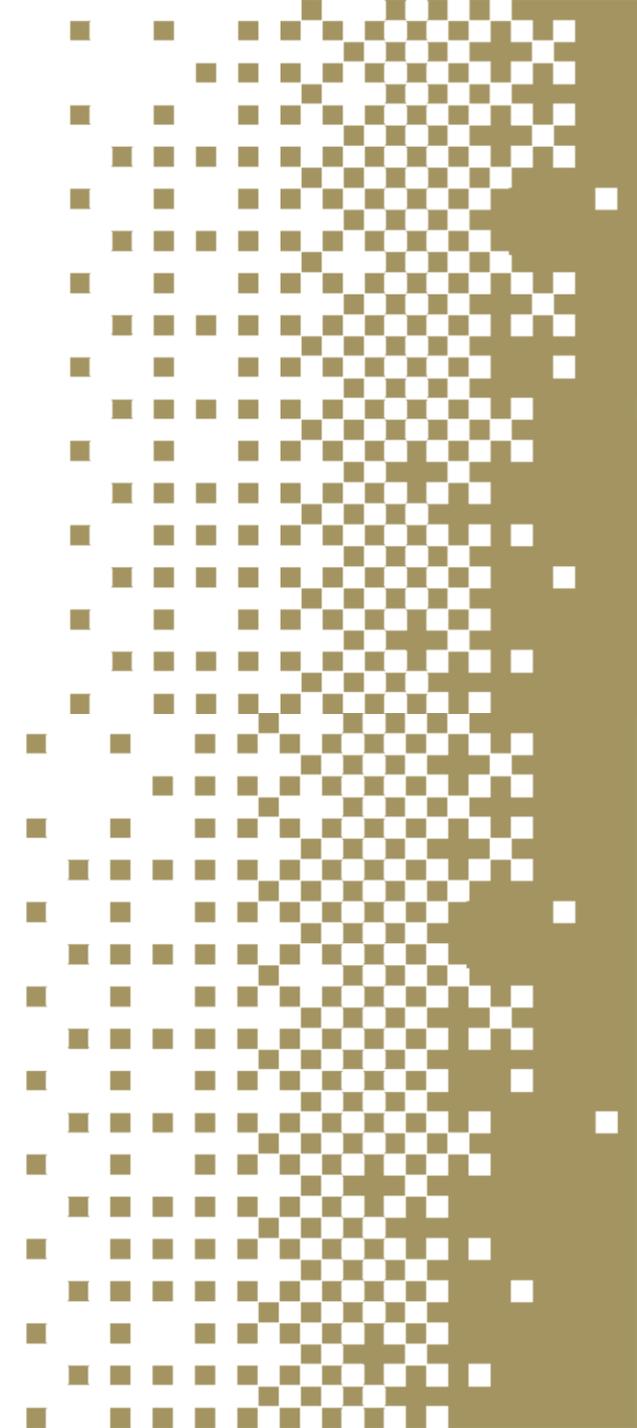
TUS Transition and Student Success Strategy Planning Phase

Student Macro-Environment - Retention

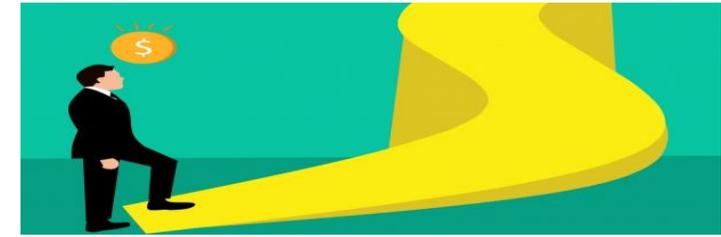
- Ability to engage in assessments successfully - lack of LC/JC Exams
- Predicted grades and grade inflation and influence on programme of choice
- Student finances influencing engagement/attendance
- Accommodation crisis and attendance
- Full-time working whilst full time studying influencing engagement/ attendance
- Impact of Covid 19 and other factors on the psychological capital of students
- The financial/personal/institutional impacts of academic failure

Research-Informed

- Belonging
- Contextual
- Multifactorial



TUS TSS Priorities



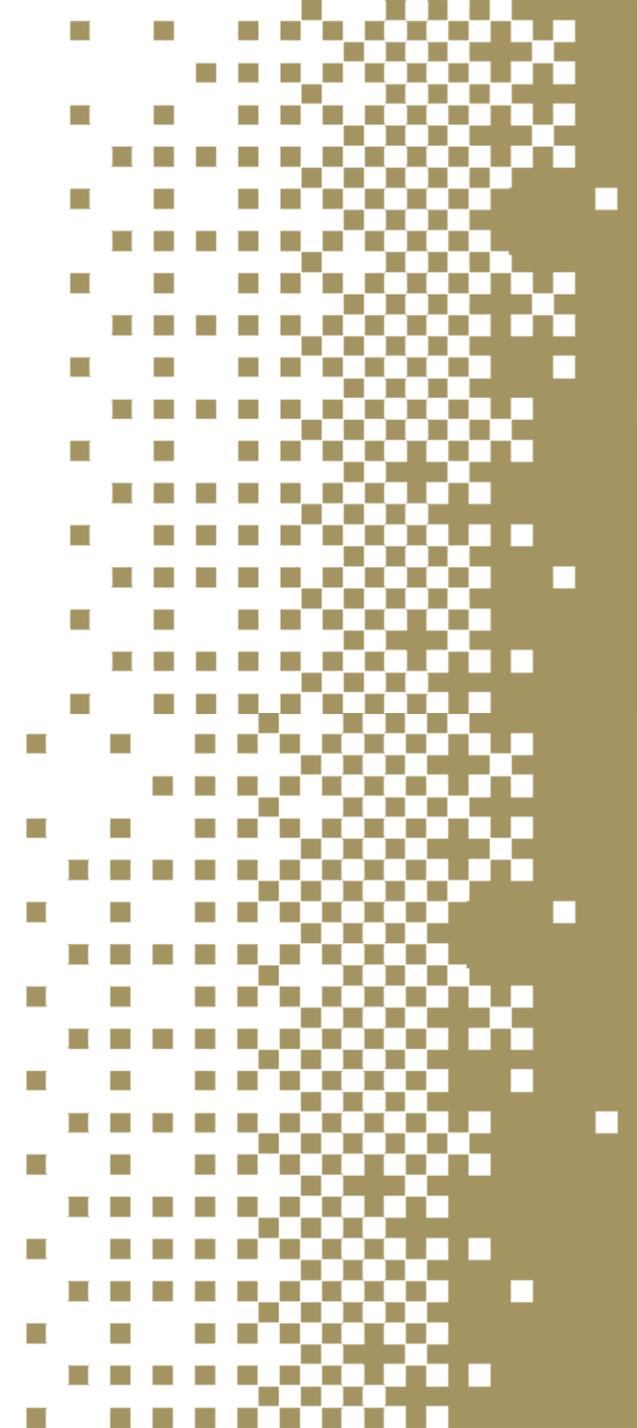
- Aligned to 3 of the Pillars from the NFTL's *Understanding and Enabling Student Success in Higher Education*
 1. A Strategic Approach to Student Success—Enabling Policies and Practices
 2. Evidence-based Decision Making
 3. Supporting Transitions and Cultivating Belonging
- Overarching Priority placed on Evidence-based Decision-making.

TUS TSS Strategic Approach

- Evidence to Support Decision-Making
- Whole of Institution Team-Based Approach
- Dual Level Engagement
- Impact 5-10 years

TUS Second Shot – April 2023

- Multi-annual - Iterations
- Curative and Preventative Measures



TUS Second Shot



- TUS Second Shot Seeks to Increase Student Participation and Success Rates in the Autumn Repeats
- TSS Dashboard – Evidence Based Approach
- Dual Level Engagement Approach
- Centrally, 17 Different Functions - Focused on Supporting all TUS Students
 - Text Messages
 - Website
- Departmental Level - Focus on Students from Programmes/ Departments
 - Target Specific Cohorts
 - Issue Advisories regarding the Repeats focusing on Clarity of Requirements
 - Increased Collaboration with Tutors/LSU
 - Big Focus on Preventative Measures – “NTUTORR - A Focus on Retention” Series



Results – Early Indicators

TUS Second Shot Results – Formal QA process

First Iteration

- Autumn Repeat Success up 0.7%
- 5 Departmental Case studies >10%
- Non-Progression Rate Reduced by 2%

Second Iteration

- Autumn Repeat Success up 5.3%
- 10 Departmental Case Studies >10%



Concluding Remarks

- Multi-annual Approach – NO QUICK FIX
- TSS Strategy Early in Terms of Implementation
- Work in Progress
- Environment Remains Challenging
- What does the Start of a Successful Retention Project Look Like?



Thank you!
Any Questions?

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