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Induction, Transition and Retention: A Student Services Perspective

The Learning Enhancement team offers support to students in the form of:

- Workshops on study skills and fundamental mathematical and scientific principles (generic and subject specific)
- 50-minute, individual student tutorials (self-referral or referred by lecturers)
- Drop-in sessions for quick queries
- Learning resources (paper-based and online)

Academic Year 2007-2008 (to date):

No. of students offered individual tutorials

- by Maths and Science Tutor: **7**
- by the Generic skills / Literacy Tutor: **5**
- by the International Tutor: **7**

The Maths and Science Tutor mostly sees students in larger workshops, where their queries can be addressed in a larger group rather than in individual tutorials. His work is mostly with First Year students.

No. of workshops given last semester:	14
Total no. of student attendees:	53
Average no. of students at each workshop:	3.79

He identifies two areas of difficulty:

1. the lack of mathematics in A-level Biology, and the perception that Biology is the least mathematical science. Common areas of difficulty raised by First Year students include:
 - converting units
 - recognising and implementing straight lines
 - implementing calculus
 - understanding logarithms
2. the use of statistics in level 3 project work or postgraduate work. Common areas of difficulty include:
 - lack of thought about questions to be answered before data is collected
 - analysis of data which is unfit for purpose
 - lack of understanding of terminology

Further trends:

- The Maths and Science tutor also identifies problems with students' attitude towards workshops, including general apathy and lack of motivation to attend, lack of self-awareness and self-diagnosis.

- There is an increase in students with mental health difficulties using the Learning Enhancement Service.

The Generic skills and Literacy Tutor mostly sees students in individual tutorials. Support is offered with writing (grammar, structure, planning, style etc) but also with broader skills such as time management, exam revision, research and note-taking.

Overview of Students regularly attending tutorials:

Degree/Year Gender	Month of 1 st contact	Query	No. of tutorials	Background	Other*
1 st Year UG Female	October	Reading and Time Management	2	Mature student	Also seeing Maths / Science tutor
1 st Year UG Male	May	Exams and anxiety	6	Mature student	Also seeing Mental Health Coordinator and Dyslexia tutor
2 nd Year UG Female	April	Exams and anxiety	6	Mature student, non-native speaker	Also seeing Mental Health Coordinator
2 nd Year UG Male	February	Exams and anxiety	3	Mature student	
Diploma Male	March	Exams and anxiety	3	Mature student	Also seeing Dyslexia Tutor

*NB for reasons of confidentiality, we do not know which students are also attending the Counselling Service.

The tutor has also offered a lecture on Reading for Biologists.

The International Tutor's work is largely in tutorials. She mostly sees mature students who are on Postgraduate courses. Their concerns are centred on writing and speaking English as a Foreign Language and differences between academic cultures.