Academic Advising Project

Transitions: Better Supporting BA and BA Hum Students to Make Key Programme Decisions

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AIM
This project will pilot the provision of centralized registration and programme guidance for BA Stage 1 and BA Hum Stage 2 students at key transition points in their College experience, and ultimately lower the rate of non-progression and non-compliance.

OBJECTIVES
- To support BA students moving from Stage 1 to Stage 2 in choosing their major subjects
- To advise BA Hum students in Stage 2 in choosing their Stage 3 experience from among internships, study abroad, and UCD coursework.
- To create two Brightspace modules that provide easily accessible information on the above decisions
- To test the benefits of follow-up advisory meetings with BA Hum students

STRATEGY
Given students' preference for communicating via Brightspace, we will create a Brightspace shell module for each programme containing key information, decision-making tools, and points of contact for further in-person guidance. The ultimate strategy is to target all students on a programme in order to de-stigmatize asking for help and advice and provide essential information about programme structures and progression in order to minimize student confusion, stress, registration errors or progression problems.

In this pilot phase, the BA strand will target students in Stage 1 Classics (c.100 Stage 1 students transition to c.50 Stage 2 students). The BA Hum strand will target students in two pathways: Classics, Art History, and Archaeology (10 students) and Music, Film and Drama (23 students). Both strands will facilitate exploring the complexities of providing advice in our College, where a majority of students work across multiple Schools and there is a high rate of cross-College enrolment.

The collaborative project team includes faculty, key members of the College Office and School staff, and student consultants, who will provide vision and detailed knowledge of registration choices and obstacles and design the feedback elements. This group will work directly with the creative team (videographer, animator, and EdTech) to create dynamic and highly functional Brightspace modules.