Immersive Learning: Making a difference to student Engagement, Self-Confidence and Belonging

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Pro Vice-Chancellor, Learning, Teaching and Student Experience

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Graduate Intern and Project Officer
USW Academic Context – who we are, what we do
Our Academic Plan
Challenges

1. Scale
2. Complexity
3. Demography
4. Identity
5. Academic Blueprint
Finding the right balance (is hard)
USW and What Works?
Our learning so far
The Immersive Learning project

- Strategic
- Operational
- Solution?

Academic Blueprint

Academic Plan

Immersive Learning
Defining Immersive Learning
The Aim
The scope of the project

- 34 courses
- 1050 students
- 74% response rate
- 1st six weeks of Autumn term
- Likert scale questionnaire
- Focus groups
Course teams and their interpretation

Students worked in groups to complete a set of tasks

Then presented their ideas back to the rest of the class

Big Pit, Blaenavon

Engagement

Belonging

Professional practice module

Self-Confidence
Course teams and their interpretation

The students were taken on a guided tour of street art in Cardiff for enrichment week.

Summer Project to be completed for induction week.

Followed by gallery visits and guest speakers.
## Immersive Learning: the Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>USW Average</th>
<th>E (86%)</th>
<th>B (76%)</th>
<th>E (61%)</th>
<th>B (90%)</th>
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*** Note that this question uses a reverse score as a control question to determine the consistency of responses to self-confidence questions. Therefore the percentages are expected to be low.
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Immersive learning was effective at breaking us out of A Level/College mind sets.

The immersive learning at the first weeks of 3rd year was really great. I think it allows you to be fully creative.

Group immersive learning was very effective in teaching me more skills and decision making. Would be great to have more of these opportunities.

Retention
Early indications show that retention has improved.
Next Steps – Mind the Gap

• Mapping to retention data

• Triangulation with NSS, course evaluations etc.

• Questions is it revealing – am I good enough for University?

• Self confidence: personal coaching, early intervention, analytics
Student Experience Plan

- Meeting and exceeding retention targets
- Better understanding individual learner motivation (identity journey)
- Transformational learning
Questions?

Thank you