Maynooth University

Online Student Transition Programmes at Maynooth University

Overview of Initiative

My Maynooth on Moodle and *Second Year & Beyond!* are institution-wide digital transition programmes designed to support student progression, retention, and success at key stages of the student lifecycle. Introduced following recommendations from the University's Student Success Strategy (2020), the initiatives respond to the need for flexible, accessible, and continuous transition supports.

Delivered via the institutional Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), the programmes provide modular, asynchronous content co-created with students and staff. Content evolves throughout the academic year, addressing academic, personal, and social challenges at critical transition points.

The programmes extend orientation beyond a one-off event into a sustained, data-informed intervention. They enhance preparedness, increase awareness of support services, and build digital confidence. Engagement data and student feedback demonstrate high levels of relevance, preparedness, and re-engagement.

The initiative is now embedded within institutional practice, with ongoing iteration and planned expansion to additional student cohorts. It represents a scalable, inclusive model for supporting student progression and retention through digital transformation.

Additional Information

The programmes have engaged over 8,000 students and are now embedded within Maynooth University's student success infrastructure. The model is scalable and transferable, offering a framework for other institutions seeking to enhance progression and retention through digital transition supports. More info: THRIVE Initiative | Maynooth University

Key Features

- First-year experience
- Institution-wide initiative
- Second-year students
- Transition focus

Aims & Objectives

Aim: To enhance student progression, retention, and success through a continuous, student-centred digital transition programme.

Objective 1: To improve first-year student preparedness and early-stage retention.

Objective 2: To support progression beyond first year through sustained engagement and targeted supports.

Institutional Context

Maynooth University's Student Success Strategy (2020), HEA System Performance Framework priorities relating to student progression, retention, and success.

Data & Evidence of Impact

An embedded evaluation mechanism within Moodle gathers ongoing quantitative and qualitative data. Results indicate strong achievement of objectives: 98% of students report content relevance, 97% increased awareness of supports, and 91% improved preparedness. Engagement levels exceed 65% of eligible cohorts annually, demonstrating sustained participation and effectiveness.

The initiative has demonstrated clear impact through improved student confidence, reduced anxiety, and increased awareness of supports—key predictors of student retention and progression. Year-on-year increases in engagement, alongside positive qualitative feedback, indicate the effectiveness of continuous digital transition supports. Further longitudinal analysis will strengthen evidence linking participation to progression outcomes.

Monitoring & Oversight

Oversight is provided by the Student Success Officer, Orientation Working Group, and an Orientation Leadership Group comprising academic staff, professional services, and students. The Working Group reports to the Orientation Leadership Group, ensuring alignment with institutional priorities. Monitoring includes regular review of engagement data, student feedback, and stakeholder input, enabling continuous refinement of content and delivery. This governance structure ensures accountability, responsiveness, and alignment with institutional progression and retention objectives.