



Team members

Stuart Wrigley, Katie Shaw (pictured above, left), Dr Kinga Zaczek (pictured above, middle), Gerard Clough, Dr Jan Kosecki, Dr Zohreh Moghimi, CeDAS.

The new two-day Head Start to University Study course was designed to complement existing transition activities by adding a novel focus on facilitating the social, psychological and cultural adaptation to university study of new undergraduate students with a Royal Holloway contextual offer flag (i.e. meeting one or more of the following criteria: mature entrant, declared disabled, care leaver, attended a 'low performing' school, lives in a quintile 1 POLAR 4 postcode, has parents with no HE experience).

The course was developed, delivered, and overseen by Learning Developers from the Centre for Development of Academic Skills (CeDAS), with valuable contributions from current students, academic colleagues from all six schools, and other professional services colleagues. Students were encouraged to attend in person, but were also permitted to join online if they preferred. One novel aspect of the course was the inclusion of three discussion panels / Q&A sessions to provide insight into different aspects of university study. Student and academic staff panel members were selected to ensure diverse representation, including of ethnicity, neurodiversity and gender-identity, as well as academic discipline. Course participants reported finding these panel discussions particularly interesting and useful.