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# An investigation into the efficacy of SmartStart:
## exploring the impact of pre-sessional support on achievement and retention

## RATIONALE

As a result of widening participation in HE, concerns have arisen about student competencies with regard to academic skills and other key literacy skills (Wall, 2006; Britton, 1970).

"Many institutions… have failed to acknowledge… the need to manage the transition from school to university" (Murray & Kirton, 2006, p 9).

Enrolling students to courses they cannot complete has implications for student motivation, confidence and retention (Wall, 2006).

## OUTCOMES
**To provide an effective grounding in academic skills and study skills, improving participation, achievement and retention**

## METHODOLOGY
**Using a series of questionnaires, interviews and monitoring of student performance to gather relevant data for analysis**