



University of **HUDDERSFIELD**

University of Huddersfield Repository

Brooks, Ruth and Raistrick, Andrew

Easing the Transition to Higher Education with Blackboard and Social Networking

Original Citation

Brooks, Ruth and Raistrick, Andrew (2011) Easing the Transition to Higher Education with Blackboard and Social Networking. In: Blackboard Teaching and Learning Conference 2011, 11-13 April 2011, University of Leeds. (Unpublished)

This version is available at <http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/10624/>

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

- The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
- A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
- The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk.

<http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/>

**Blackboard®
Teaching + Learning
Conference 2011**

11-13 APRIL 2011 | UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS, UK

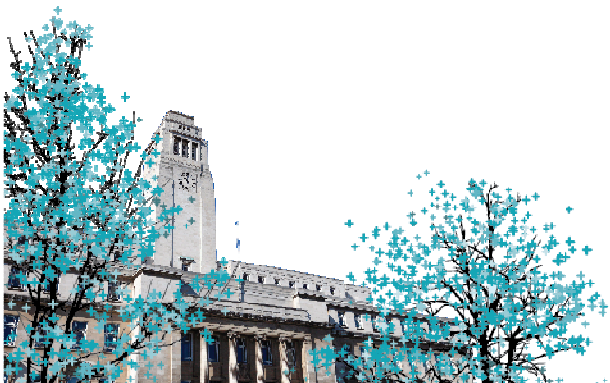
Technical Considerations

‘Getting to Know You’ Pre-induction Social Network

Ruth Brooks

Course Leader BA (Hons) Business
Management

Andrew Raistrick



Blackboard®
Teaching + Learning
Conference 2011

Transition from FE to HE

Starting university is an exciting but challenging time.

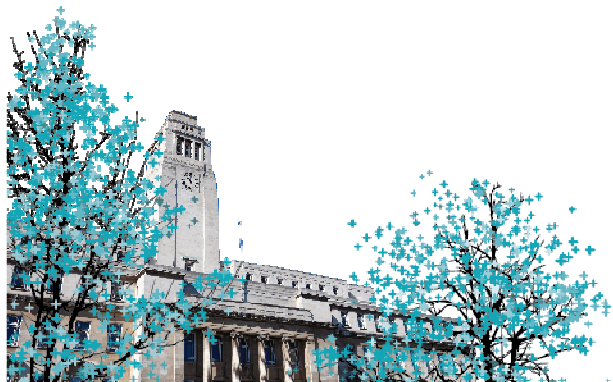
Level of study

New friends

Moving away from home

Costs

Have they made the right choice?



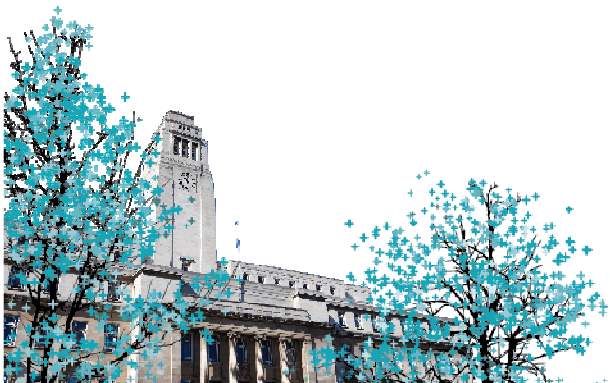
Blackboard[®]
Teaching + Learning
Conference 2011



Induction should be an ongoing process (Holdsworth 2006)

Widening participation has an impact on transition (Knox 2005)

Students may not have the cultural capital to invest in starting university (Leese 2010)



Blackboard[®]
Teaching + Learning
Conference 2011

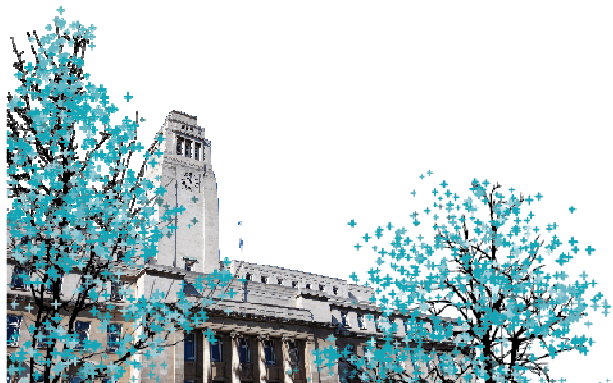


Summer school social network

Videos about university

FAQ's before induction

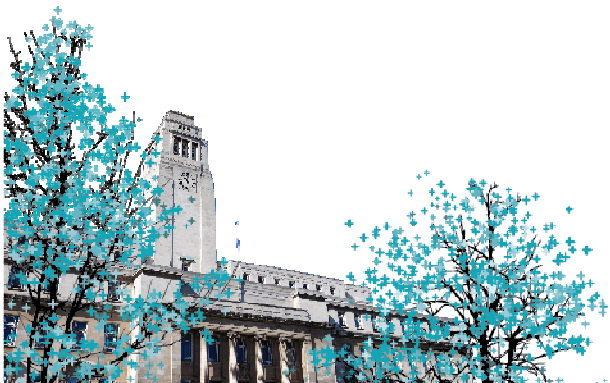
Pre-induction social network



Blackboard®
Teaching + Learning
Conference 2011

Aim of the project:

- To introduce the teaching team
- To provide information about the course
- To help with travel and parking arrangements
- To share previous student experiences
- To talk to tutors as well as new and existing students
- To introduce the Blackboard VLE



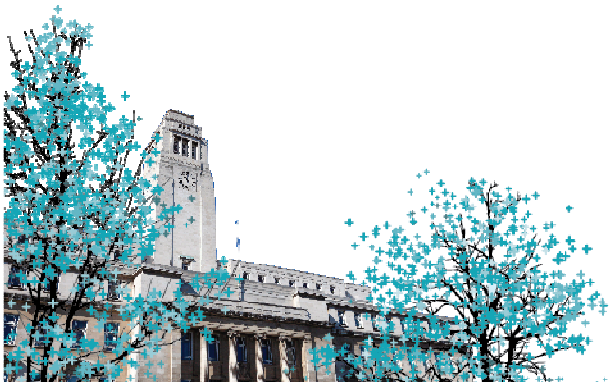
Which Social Network



- High native use
- Easy Engagement
- Media demonization
- Encroach on students' space
- Harder to control



- Free (at the time)
- In-house expertise
- Closed network
- Easy to control and moderate
- Easy to theme



Blackboard[®]
Teaching + Learning
Conference 2011

Ning Blackboard Training



Presentation

1-2-1

Support

Engagement



Blackboard[®]
Teaching + Learning
Conference 2011

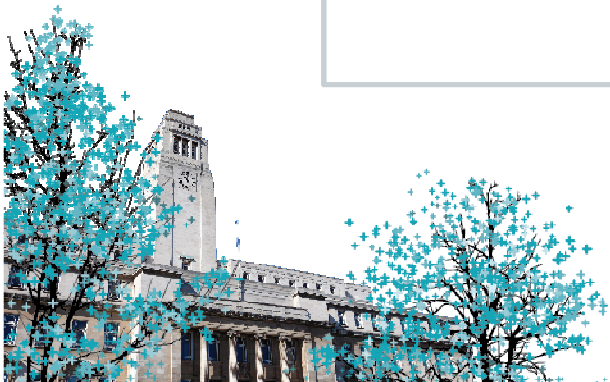
Ning / Blackboard Branding



Synergy



Engagement



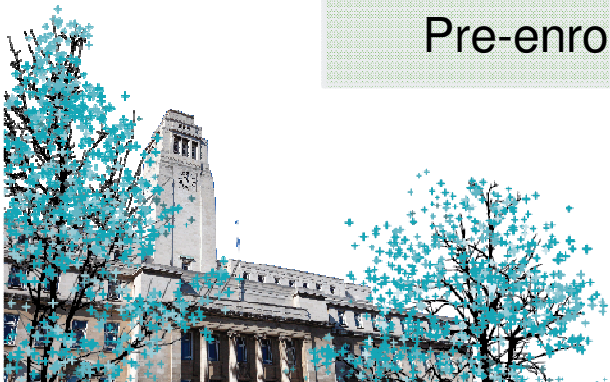
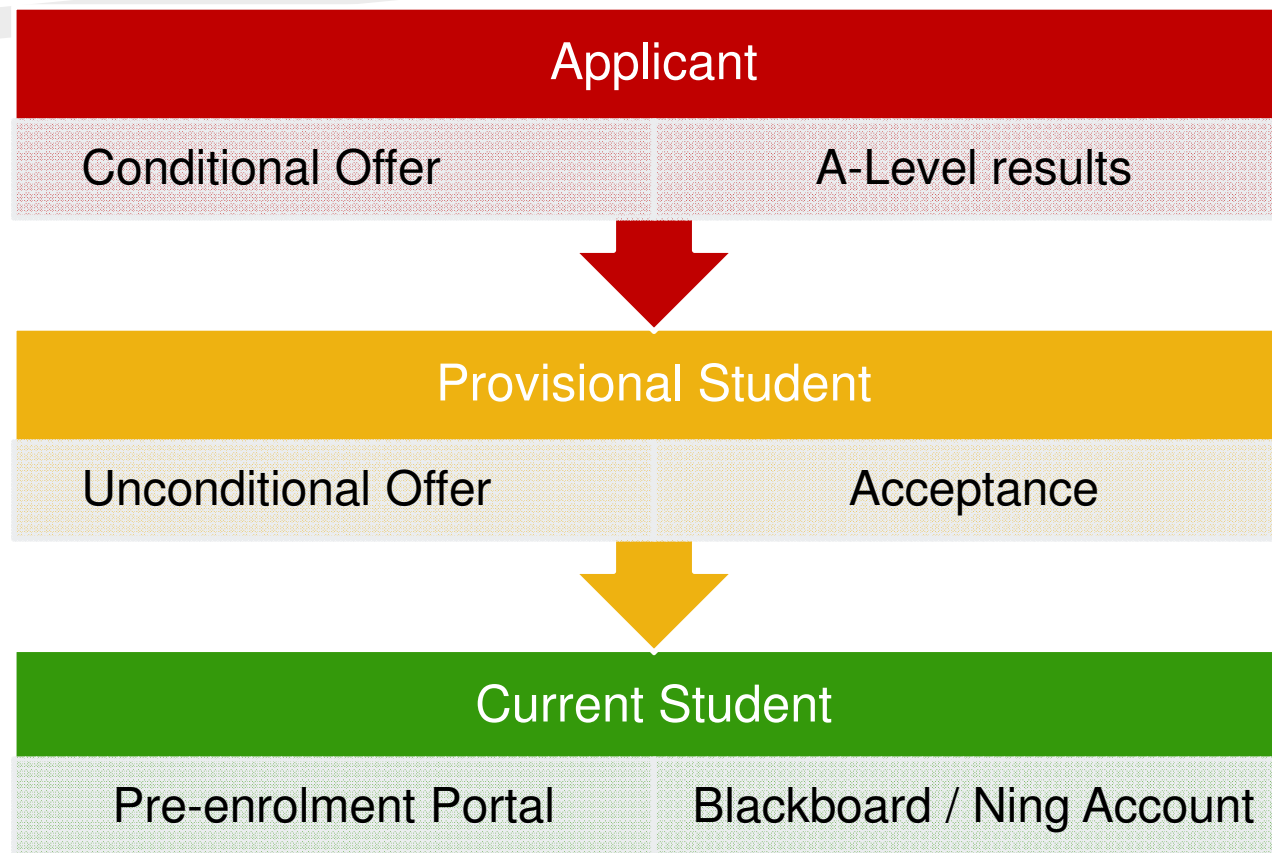
Blackboard[®]
Teaching + Learning
Conference 2011

Ning / Blackboard Branding



Blackboard[®]
Teaching + Learning
Conference 2011

Ning / Blackboard Branding

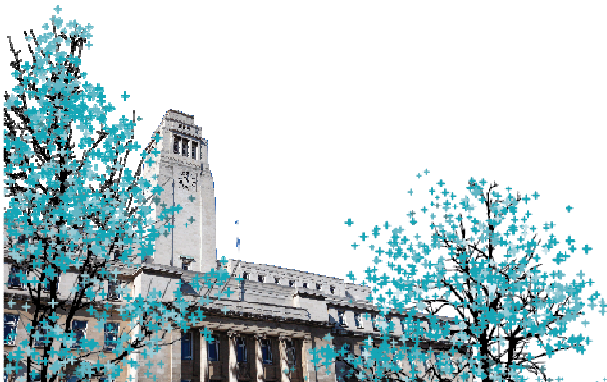


Ning / Blackboard Enrol


Student
Records
System

Daily

Blackboard



Blackboard[®]
Teaching + Learning
Conference 2011

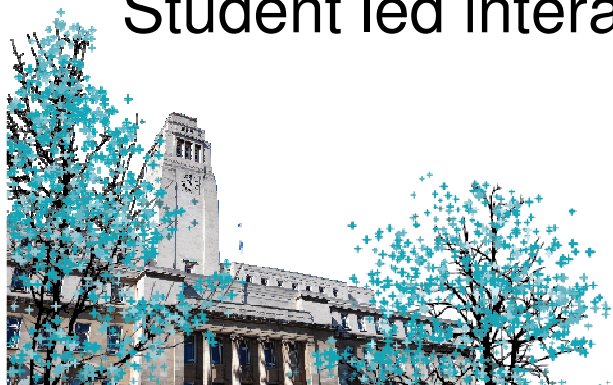


Personal letter from course leader explaining the site and asking them to get in touch with their e-mail details.

Invite to join the ning and the Blackboard site

Welcome messages

Student led interaction



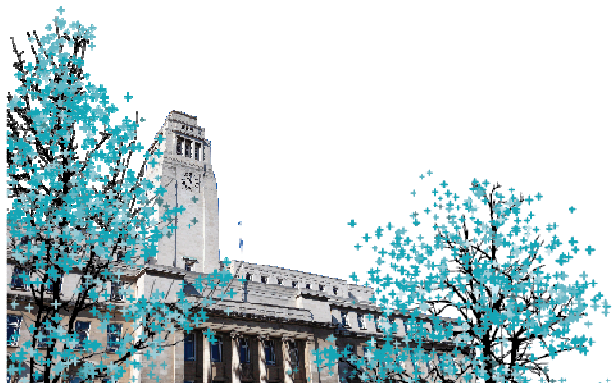
Blackboard[®]
Teaching + Learning
Conference 2011




Third of students joined the network.

Some used the Blackboard site only.

Users felt they benefited from the experience.

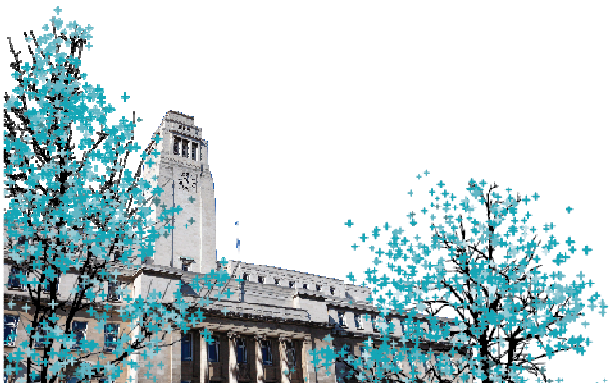


Blackboard[®]
Teaching + Learning
Conference 2011



“its so useful!! to contact with tutor and find friends on same course!! all course should make this system :) ”

I thought the site was a great idea! It helped settle my nerves for the first day because it gave me an idea on who would be on my course, and allowed me to find out a bit about them. It also meant that I could ask you any questions on anything I was unsure about



References

Holdsworth, C.(2006) 'Don't you think you're missing out, living at home?' Student experiences and residential transition.' *Sociological Review*, 54, no.3, 495-519.

Knox, H. (2005) Making the transition from further to higher education: the impact of a preparatory module on retention, progression and performance', *Journal of Further and Higher Education*, 29: 2, 103-110.

Leese, M. (2010) Bridging the gap: supporting student transitions into higher education,' *Journal of Further and Higher Education*, 34: 2, 239-251.



Blackboard® Teaching + Learning Conference 2011

11-13 APRIL 2011 | UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS, UK

Thank You

Presenter 1 Name

Institution Name

Email@Institution.edu

Presenter 2 Name

Institution Name

Email@Institution.edu

