Study protocol

Title of project: Noteable

Purpose of project

The purpose of my project is to create an online academic environment where students are able to seek support and help towards their studies through note sharing. Other effective ways of gaining help proposed on Notable is the support from AI chatbots which give fast and reliable solutions and with the further introduction of tutors – for a more 1-1 support system.

Participants

Interview: I will be holding interviews with 5 participants to explore in detail the issues associated with the university support system.

Survey: The survey will be shared amongst 20 – 30 participants.

You will only be required to take part in either an interview or a survey

Duration

Interview: The interview will consist of 5 main questions and will approximately take 30 – 60 minutes

Survey The survey will have 10 – 20 questions and will approximately take 10 – 20 minutes.

Location

Interview will be held online on Zoom

Surveys will be open online for students via google forums

Both will be held between 15th November – 15th May

Interview protocol:

1. Can you describe your experience transitioning from secondary school/sixth form to university? How did it impact your study habits and academic confidence?

2. Do you feel that the support systems at university (e.g., academic advisors, mental health services) have improved your ability to study efficiently? If so, how? If not, what improvements could be made?

3. Have you ever struggled to reach out for help from lecturers or peers when you faced academic difficulties? Does reaching out to peers make you feel burdensome?

4. What role do you think peer support or academic networking plays in your ability to succeed academically? Do you feel that the university fosters enough opportunities for collaboration and peer-to-peer support?

5. Do you think a platform like Noteable, which connects students with peers and tutors for real-time note sharing and academic support, would help you with your studies? How do you think it could enhance your learning experience?

Survey protocol:

1. How did you find the transition from sixth form/college to university?
(e.g., very difficult, somewhat difficult, neutral, somewhat easy, very easy)

2. What type of support systems did you find helpful at university?
(e.g., academic advisors, peer mentoring, student societies, counselling services)

3. How motivated do you feel towards your studies?
(Likert scale: not motivated, slightly motivated, neutral, motivated, very motivated)

4. What challenges have you faced in balancing academic and social life at university?
(Open-ended)

5. How connected do you feel with your peers in your program?
(e.g., not connected, slightly connected, moderately connected, very connected)

6. How comfortable are you in seeking help from tutors or lecturers?
(e.g., not comfortable, somewhat comfortable, comfortable, very comfortable)

7. Do you participate in any academic support networks (e.g., study groups, tutoring)?
(Yes/No)

8. What factors affect your motivation to study?
(e.g., workload, personal interest, social distractions, academic support)

9. Do you think the university provides adequate support for students' mental wellbeing? (Yes/No)

10. What additional support or resources would improve your university experience?
(Open-ended)

11. Have you ever considered dropping out of your studies? If yes, what were the reasons?
(Yes/No, with an option to elaborate on reasons if "Yes")

12. How often do you feel overwhelmed by academic pressures at university? (e.g., never, rarely, sometimes, often, always)

13. Have you ever felt alone or isolated during your time at university? If so, what do you think contributed to these feelings?

(Yes/No, with an option to elaborate if "Yes")

14. Did the transition between the support system in sixth form to university effect your overall academic success?
(Yes/No, with an option to elaborate if "Yes")

15. Do you believe an online environment like Noteable (an online note sharing platform between peers with support of a tutor (if wanted) and AI is available) would be useful to you in progressing with your studies at university?
(Yes/No, with an option to elaborate if "No")