

Student Transition System for the School's of Chemistry & Physics

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1 Status report

1.1 Proposal

1.1.1 Motivation

The transition from secondary education into higher education can be intimidating and difficult for students, especially for students entering from international background. There is so much to plan, organise, and consider on the lead up to beginning their university experience.

1.1.2 Aims

The aim of this project is to make the transition from secondary to higher education easier for those accepting a position in the School's of Chemistry and/or Physics at the University of Glasgow. The project would do so by creating a "hub" with all the essential information one would need to know when starting in either of these school's. The efficiency and ease-of-use of the system would be measured through the collection of feedback from current & prospective university students, which would allow the identification of any issues and for the discovery of all essential information by the user.

1.2 Progress

- Read journal articles on the topic to improve understanding of theory of the transition from secondary to higher education, as well as how Chemistry and Physics students retain knowledge.
- Surveyed Chemistry and Physics students to improve knowledge and gain insight and feedback on plans for system design and features.
- Met with staff from the School of Chemistry, and the School of Physics to discuss the system and its benefits for their respective schools.
- Created a working wireframe prototype of the system.
- Met with the School of Chemistry staff to gather feedback on the wireframe prototype, and to narrow down what they would like featured in the system.
- Created system architecture diagrams.

- Began development of the system.
 - Created main components to be used across all pages.
 - Created homepage.

1.3 Problems and risks

1.3.1 Problems

- Since this project requires a lot of input from Chemistry and Physics students and staff alike, there has been hold up waiting for forms to be filled out, and for meetings to be organised.
- Encountered an error in react referred to as the "whitescreen of death", in which none of the components were loading on the page when run. The project was held up while I investigated the issue, and ways to resolve it.
- Time pressures and balancing coursework and extracurricular's with project work.

1.3.2 Risks

- Time pressures and balancing coursework and extracurricular's with project work, especially with the deadline on the horizon.
- Further potential code issues.
- Ensuring that the projects functionality is appropriate for the intended audience. Trying to make the project work for both schools might lead to some issues.
- For evaluation, since I will require people to use the system, it may take a while before they get round to doing so, or they may not complete at all.

1.4 Plan

- December + Semester 2, Weeks 1, 2, & 3 - Finish implementation of the system & system testing.
- Semester 2, Weeks 4 & 5 - Plan evaluation.
- Semester 2, Weeks 6, 7, & 8 - Conduct evaluation.
- Semester 2, Week 1 On-wards - Write up dissertation.