Supporting students for success: four tools to enhance your students' learning

- Andrew Day - Acacemic Support Librarian
- Julie Mundair - Academic Skills Tutor
- Tom Perry - Academic Skills Coordinator
- Stuart Smith - Digital Skills Developer

Academic and Digital Skills Team

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Academic and Digital Skills Team

Instructions

In this showcase

- Welcome to the Academic and Digital Skills Team
- Information Skills for Success
- Integrity Matters
- The Digital Backpack
- Studiosity+
- Q&A*

*Please use the **Q&A function** in Menti to enter questions -these will be answered at the end of the showcase

Academic & Digital Skills

Study more effectively by developing your academic and digital skills such as essay writing, research, dissertation preparation, critical thinking, presentation skills and assessing your Digital Capabilities.

Make an appointment

Book a 1 to 1 tutorial with a librarian or academic skills tutor, or sign up for some of our workshops to help you prepare for your studies.

Book a 1 to1 tutorial

Book a workshop

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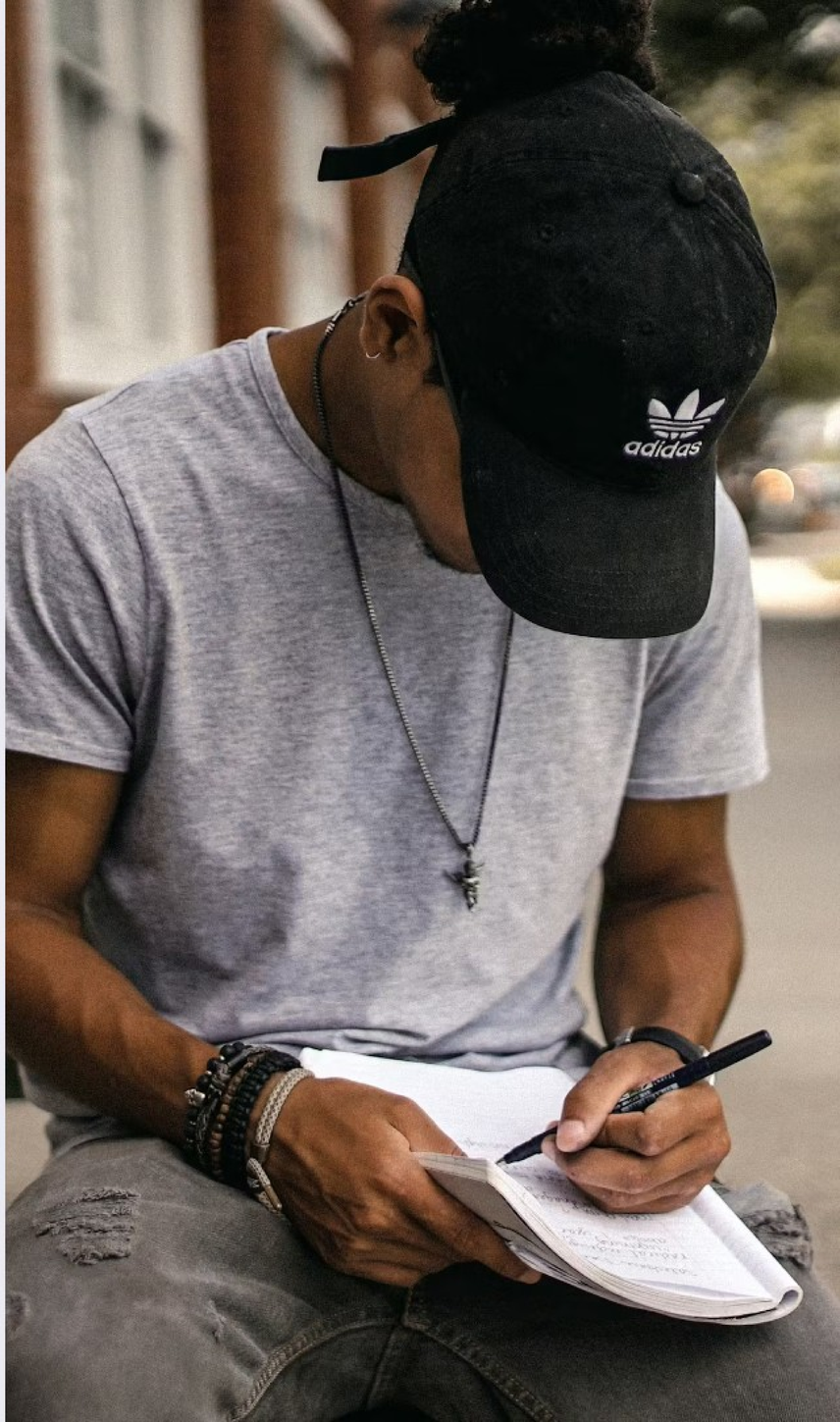
The Academic and Digital Skills Team

The Academic and Digital Skills Team

- The award-winning Academic and Digital Skills Team delivers a support service for all students at the university.
- Comprised of librarians, academic skills tutors, a Digital Skills Developer, administrators and student Digital Champions
- ADST develops academic support services and resources, responding wherever there is a need for them, e.g. students struggling with an assessment skill, or new skills being required.
- The team works collaboratively in temporary teams with co-creators such as faculty academic staff, students and other university departments.



Support from our staff

Academic Skills Tutors - Study and assessment skills

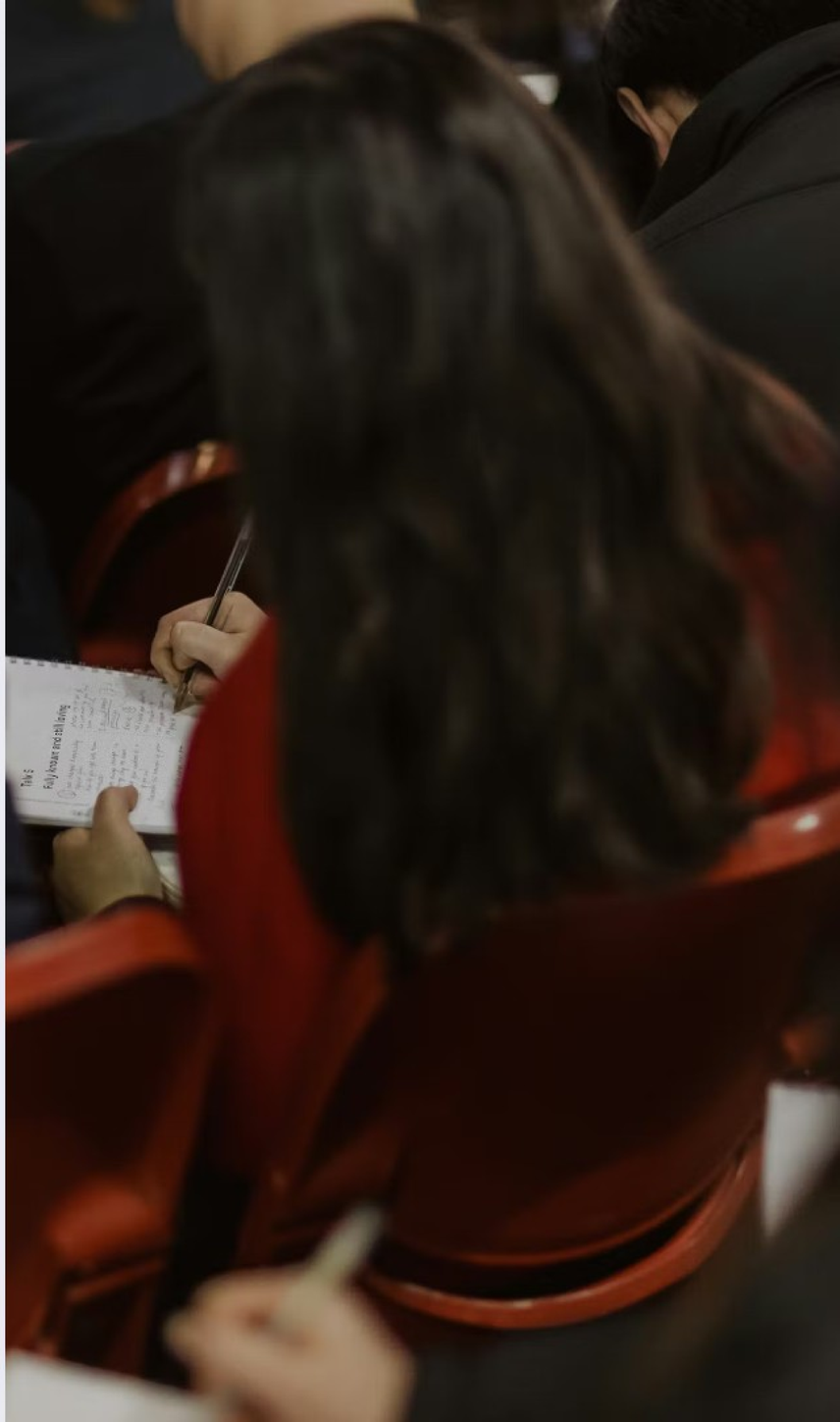
Academic Support Librarians - Research and Referencing Skills

Digital Developer - working with students to enhance their skills portfolios

Digital Champions - University learning systems and Office 365

Synchronous support

- Bespoke sessions for students on a particular module or cohort (F2F or online)
- One-to-one tutorials (F2F or online)
- GreFest Summer and Winter (Online)
- Assessment support workshops (Online)
- Next Level Live (Moodle / Teams)



Asynchronous support

- - Self-directed Moodle courses (Integrity Matters, Information Skills for Success)
- - Workshop recordings and tutorial videos
- - LibGuides - library and study skills guides
- - Studiosity+ - assessment feedback
- - Support for LinkedIn Learning and ethical AI use

How can you find out about what we offer?

- Monthly team updates sent out to all Faculties by our librarians
- ADST updates at Faculty Student Success Board
- At Programme Committee meetings
- Academic and Digital Skills Inclusion and Transition Teams channel
- Internal communications
- Contact us at academic-and-digitalskills@greenwich.ac.uk

Inclusive support

- A variety of learning support services, meeting recognised skills needs in our diverse student body.
- We work actively to ensure that what we offer to students will help them to overcome any barriers to their attainment and success
- Where students come from socio-economically, their race, age, gender, or international home country can affect the opportunities they have had to learn the skills needed for university in the UK
- Creating equity vs a deficit model

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Information Skills for Success

What is Information Skills for Success?

- Self-paced Moodle course aimed at UG and PGT students
- Uses digital tools to make information literacy engaging for students
- Built around four core modules
- Each addresses information literacy in an academic context

What are the benefits of the course?

- Develop key skills and attitudes essential to good quality academic research
- Opportunity to think critically about and reflect on research practice
- Can be undertaken on an as-and-when basis around a student's course
- Brings information skills up to date, covering fake news, social media, and AI
- Builds skills and competencies that can be taken into the workplace
- Earns students a Moodle badge on completion, linked to the Employability Passport

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"Information literacy is the ability to think critically and make balanced judgements about any information we find and use. It empowers us as citizens to reach and express informed views and to engage fully with society."

- (CILIP, 2018)

Learning design for the course

- - Clear learning objectives for each module
- - Formative assessments throughout
- - Summative assessment at end of each module
- - Links out to quality-checked videos and sources of further information
- - Use of current, real-world examples
- - Signposts to University support and University regulations

Locating academic information

- Focuses on search strategies that enable students to identify reliable, relevant sources efficiently
- Explains the purpose of academic research
- Defines what scholarly sources are and where to find them
- Explains the difference between primary and secondary research
- Section: Locating academic information | Information Skills for Success- 2024-25 | Moodle Home

Evaluating Information

- Examines criteria for critically assessing information credibility and relevance, fostering critical thinking
- Introduces criteria for evaluating information (source, authorship, purpose, bias, currency etc.)
- Covers frameworks and tools for assessing the reliability of a source
- Defines misinformation and disinformation and how to identify them
- Section: Evaluating information | Information Skills for Success- 2024-25 | Moodle Home

Referencing and academic integrity

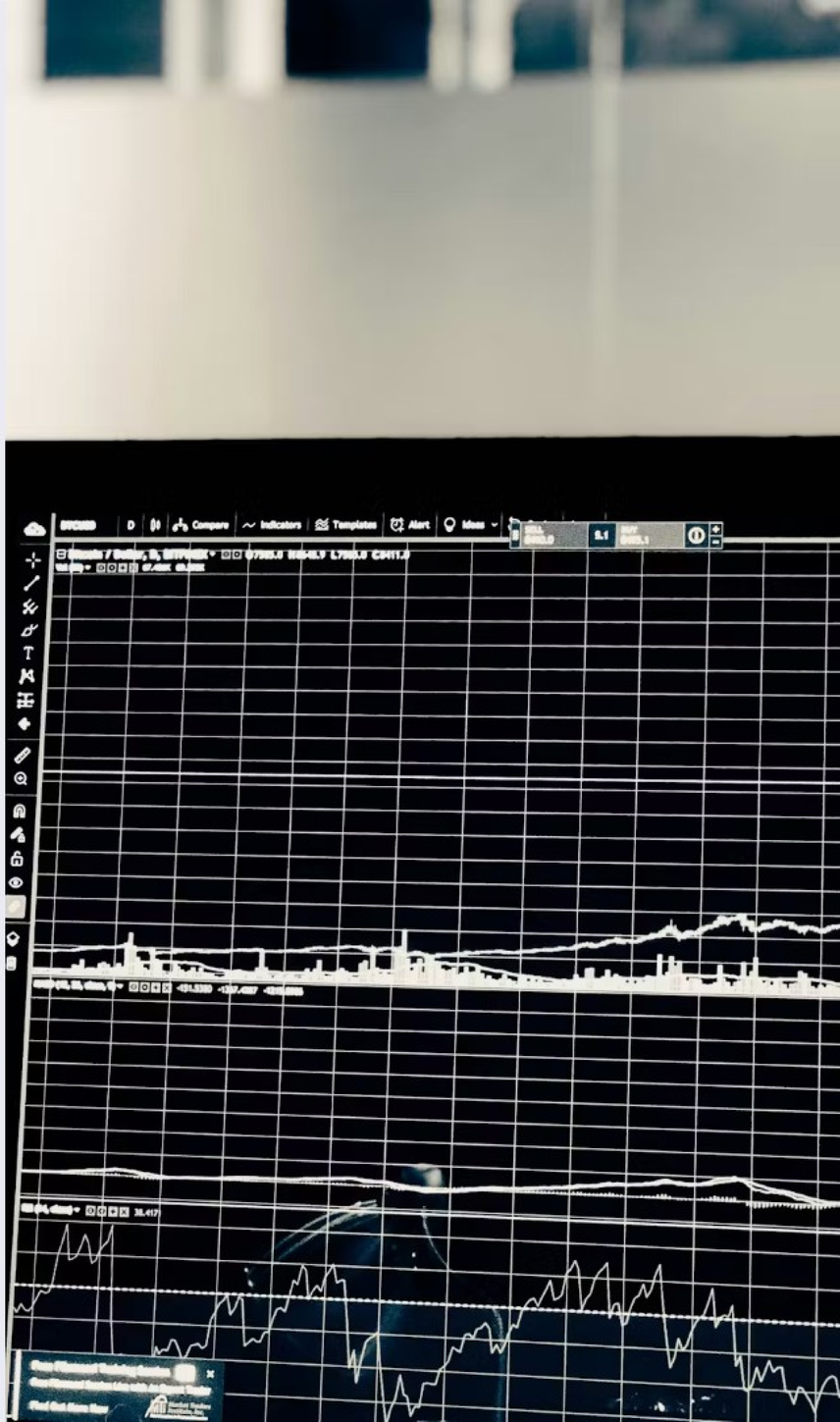
- Emphasises the importance of proper citation practices, to support academic integrity.
- Defines plagiarism and explains how to avoid it
- Covers Harvard citation and referencing techniques
- Information on reference management software

Digital literacy: social media and AI

- Explores some of the ethical and educational issues around social media and generative AI.
- Explains how to establish and safely manage a professional digital identity
- Interrogates social media as an information source and how to navigate it
- Explains how to use AI effectively, within university guidelines
- Explores the ethical implications of social media and AI use
- Section: Digital literacy: social media and AI | Information Skills for Success- 2024-25 | Moodle Home

Statistics

- 33,000 page views since September 2024 (excluding admins)
- 499 course participants
- 206 completed course
- 88 passed all summative assessments



How can I use Information Skills for Success?

- Signpost to all students
- Refer students struggling with research / referencing
- Embed links into your Moodle courses
- Embed the course into your module

Integrity Matters

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Our aim is to promote Academic Integrity

Some students may struggle with their approach to academic integrity, with the new generative AI tools they may find policies confusing.
We as a team wanted to help students understand ethical principles and adopt academic integrity solutions.

Assessment Misconduct Procedure for 2023-24

These rules can be located on the portal
https://docs.gre.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0028/332668/assessment-misconduct-procedure-effective-from-2023-24-v2.pdf

Common problems

Is that students have not paraphrased effectively – that is used their own words to discuss the work of other authors

Have relied too heavily on the wording/word order of the original text they are attempting to paraphrase

So that it appears very similar to the original text.

You might not realise this

- Most plagiarism cases are not deliberate;

- In that students have not set out to cheat

- Is it just that they have not referenced their source material or have not referenced it correctly, according to the conventions of the referencing style.

Other reasons include

Not understanding what plagiarism is and why it is not an acceptable practice.

Being used to different academic practices in other educational institutions;

The leap from further to higher education is one such example

Where the referencing required at higher education is much more rigorous.

Spend a few minutes exploring, work through the first section of the resource.

For further support please refer students to our Academic Skills Hub

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Studiosity

Studiosity+

Studiosity Plus

AI-powered writing feedback tool available 24/7

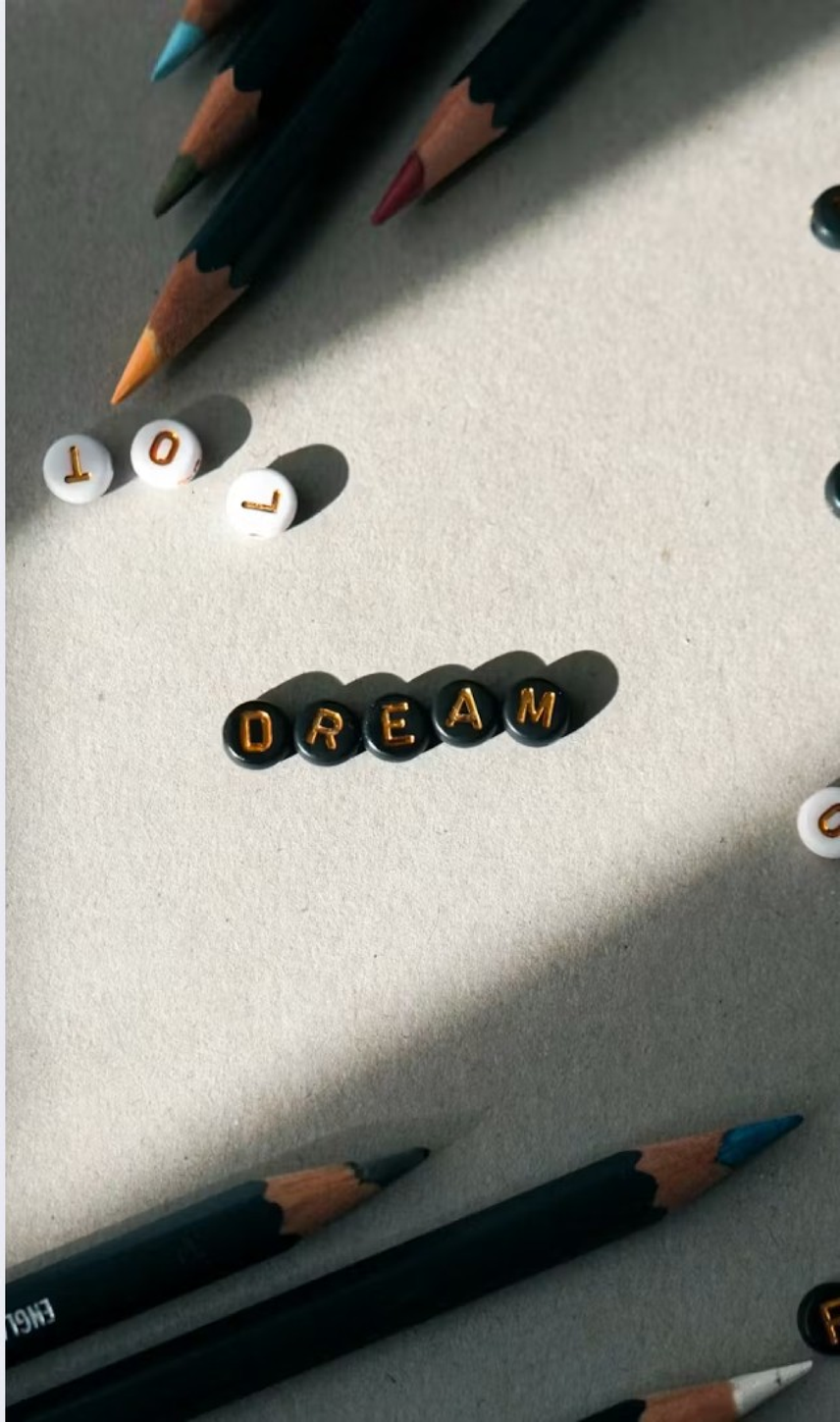
What is Studiosity Plus?

- AI-powered writing feedback tool.
- Available on demand 24/7 to registered University of Greenwich students.
- Access from Modules in Moodle.

Feedback Areas

Covers all aspects of academic writing, including...

- Grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
- Essay structure and organisation.
- Concise writing.
- Argumentation and critical thinking.



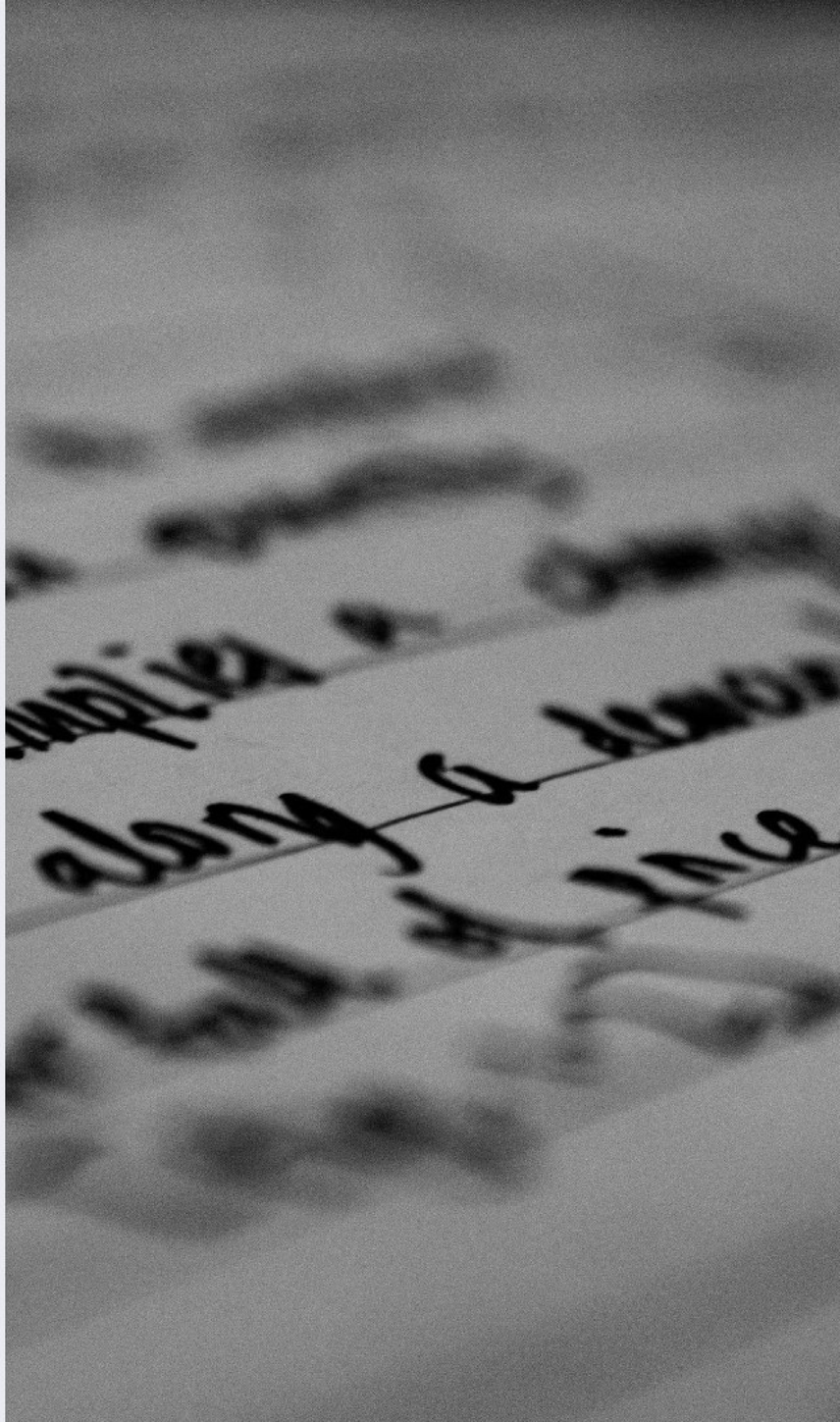
Comparison

Studiosity Classic	Studiosity Plus
A subject specialist reviews the submitted work and provides feedback on areas selected by the student	The AI model will generate feedback on all areas based on the training from subject specialists. This will also include advice on critical thinking.
Work is returned to the student within 4-6 hours	Work is returned within 2 minutes (average time).
Students currently have 6 submissions per academic year which can be used between Writing Feedback and Connect Live (each use counts as an interaction)	Students will have up to 100 submissions per academic year + 5 Connect Live interactions.

Why Studiosity Plus?

Personalised Learning

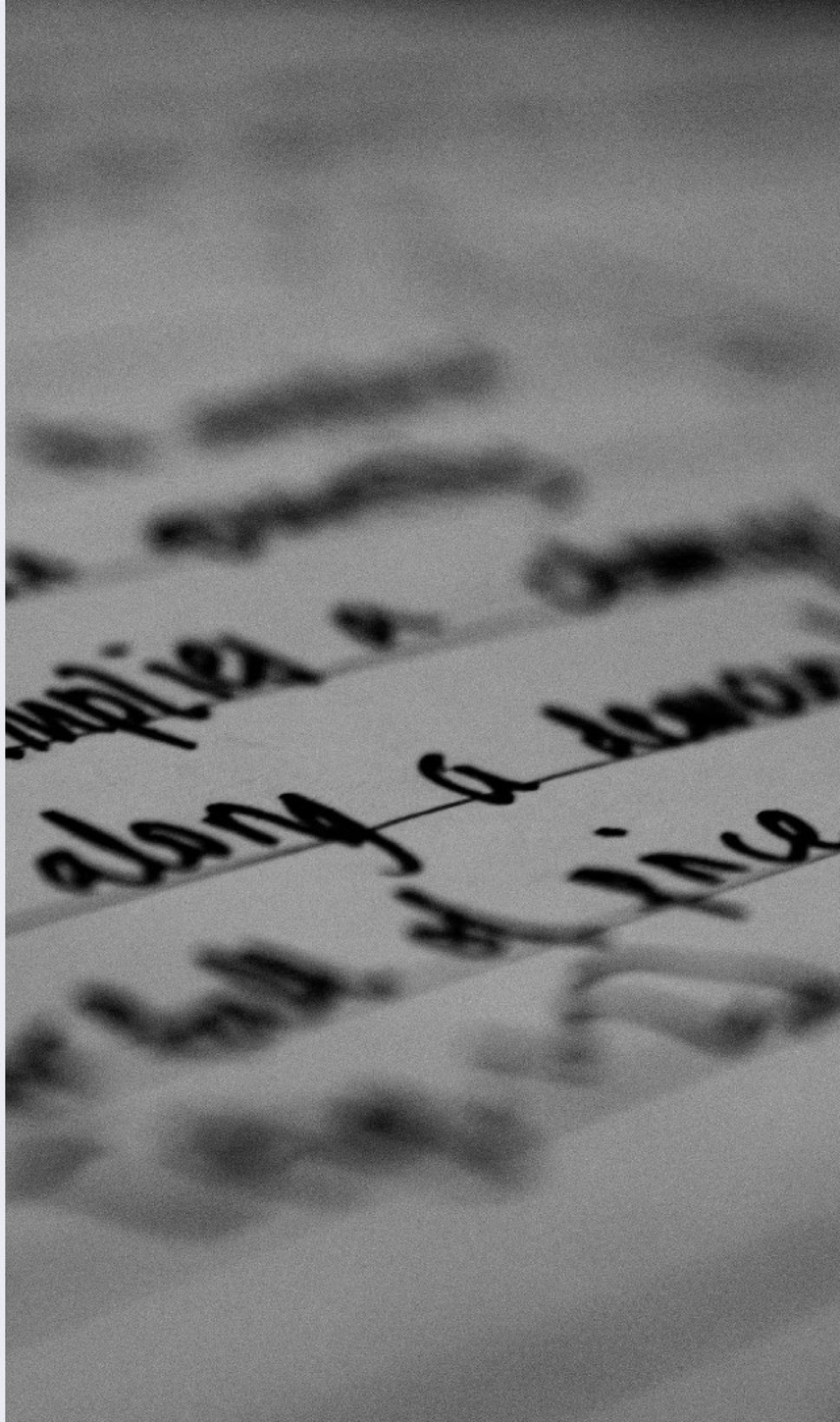
- Tailored feedback helps students identify and correct recurring issues.
- Can be used for both formative and summative assessments.
- Encourages proofreading and critical assessment skills.



Why Studiosity Plus?

Time Management

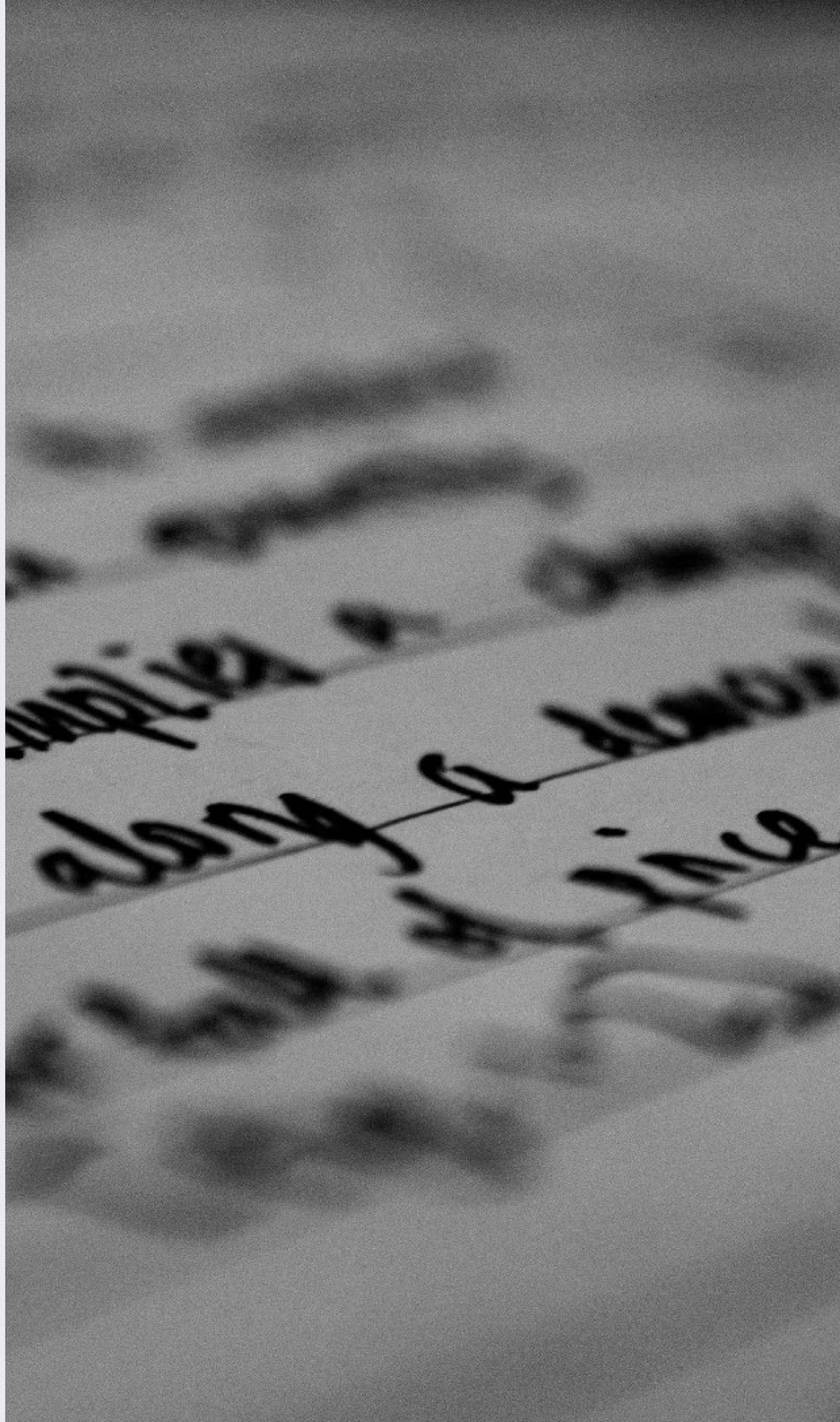
- Helps students manage deadlines more effectively.
- Reduces stress by providing reliable guidance throughout the writing process.

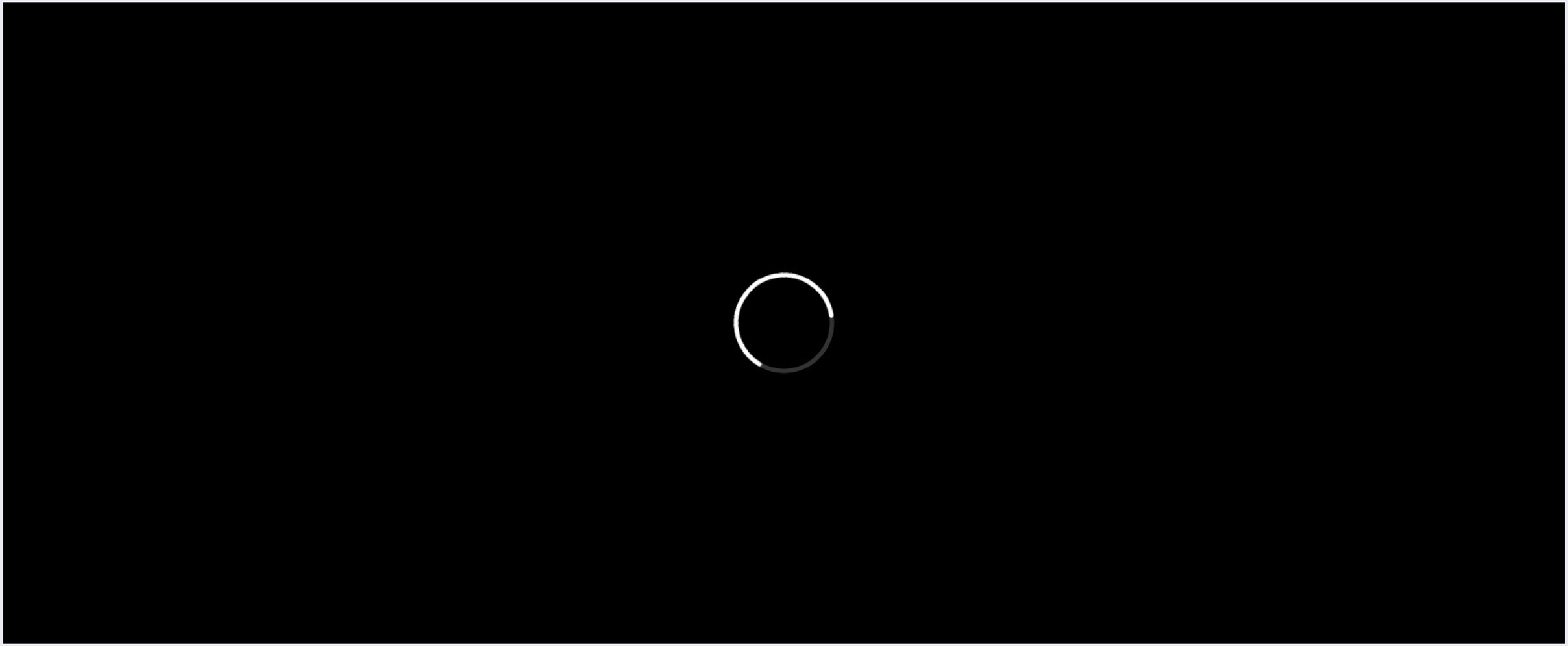


Why Studiosity Plus?

Improves Grades

- Students report steady improvement in grades after using Studiosity Plus.
- Enhances overall academic performance.



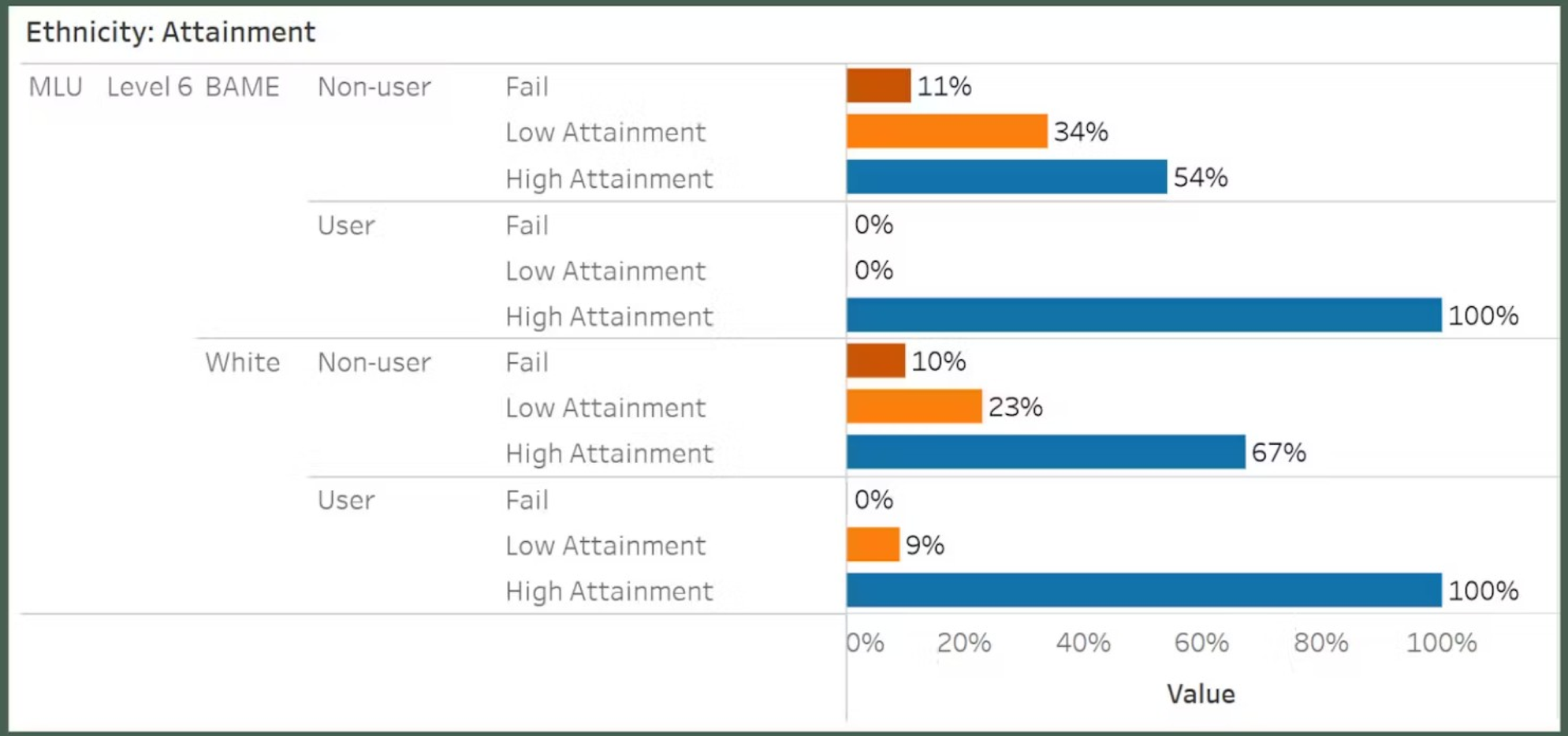


Why University of Greenwich have adopted Studiosity's AI-for-learning for a three year partnership.

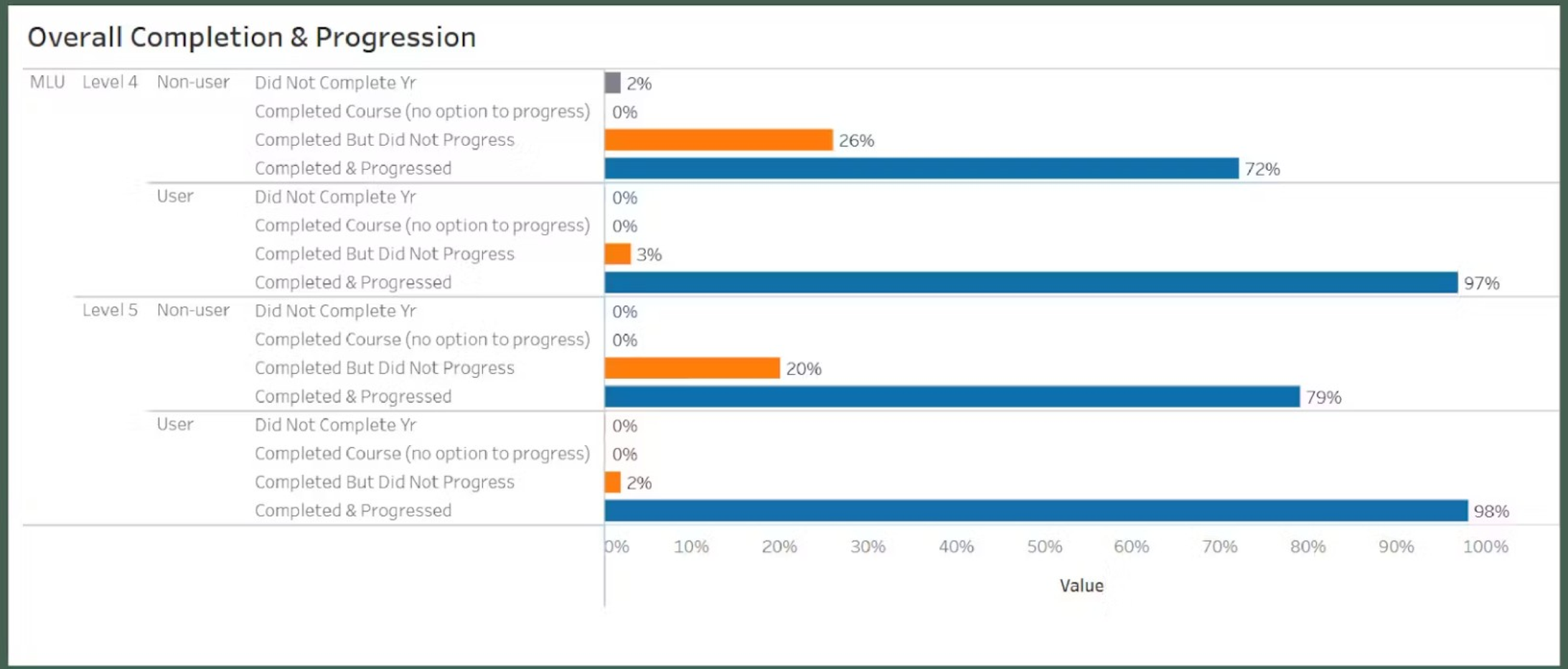
Pilot Study 2023/24

- 2,000 Faculty of Education, Health and Human Sciences (FEHHS) students given access over two semesters.
- 50% of students accessed the service, with 3,350 documents uploaded for formative feedback on their academic writing.
- Overall satisfaction rating of 85%.
- Greenwich switched on the AI-powered ‘Plus’ feedback for all students in September 2024.

Ethnicity attainment

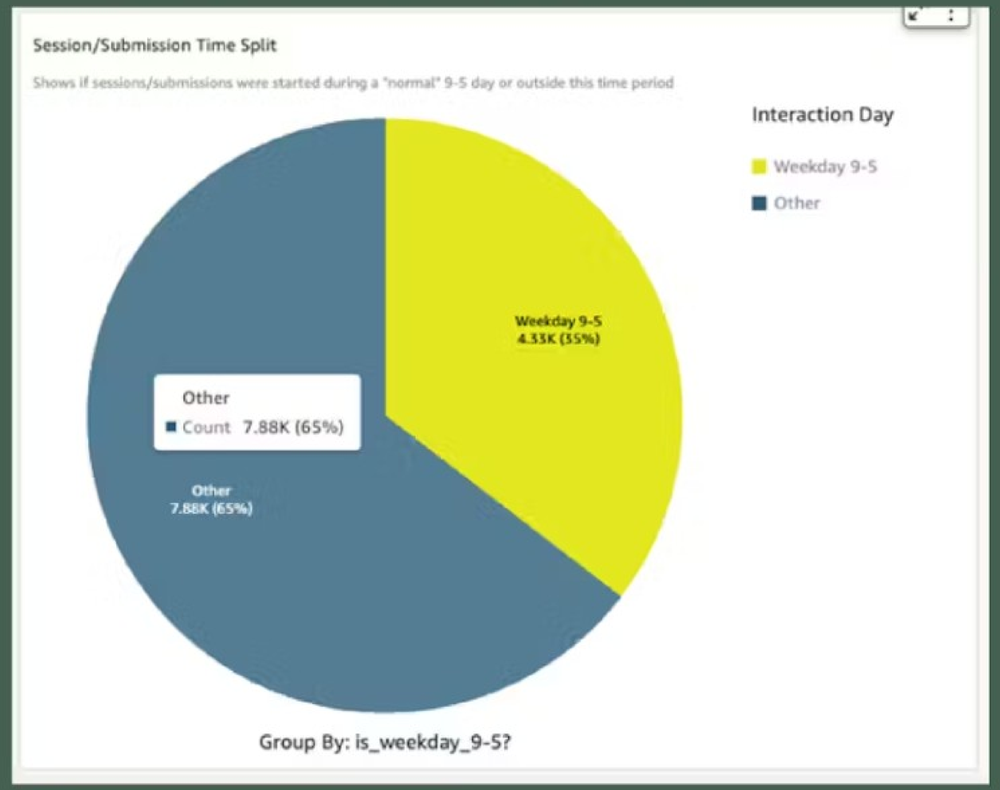


Completion and progression

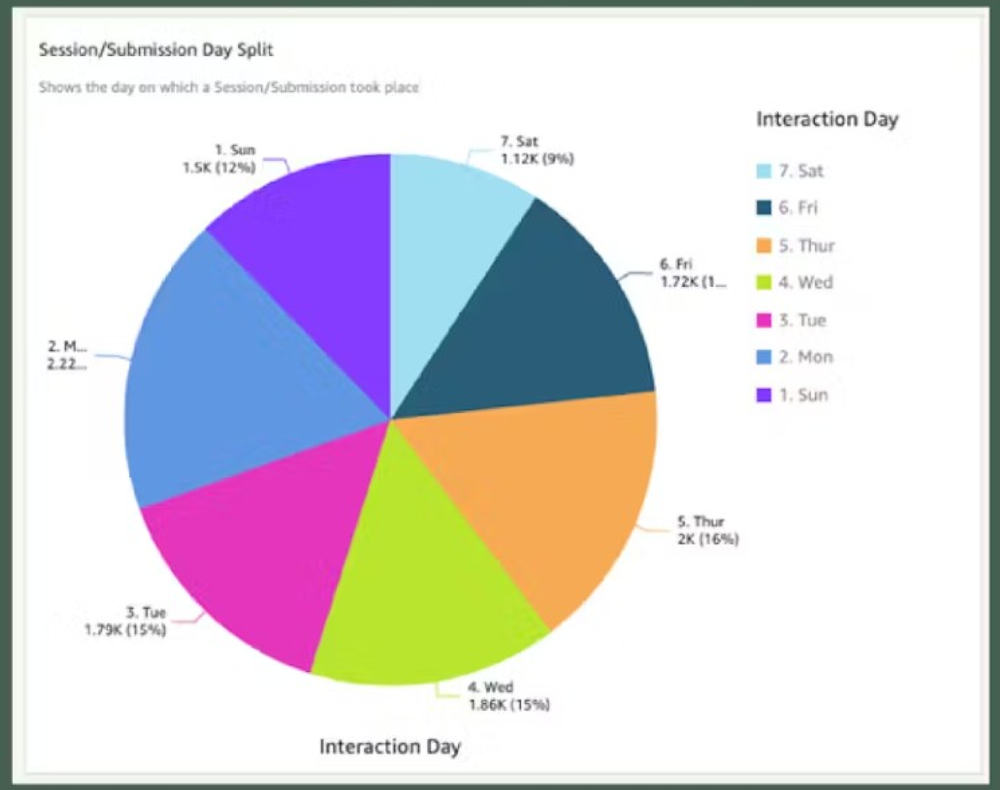


Typical usage by day/week

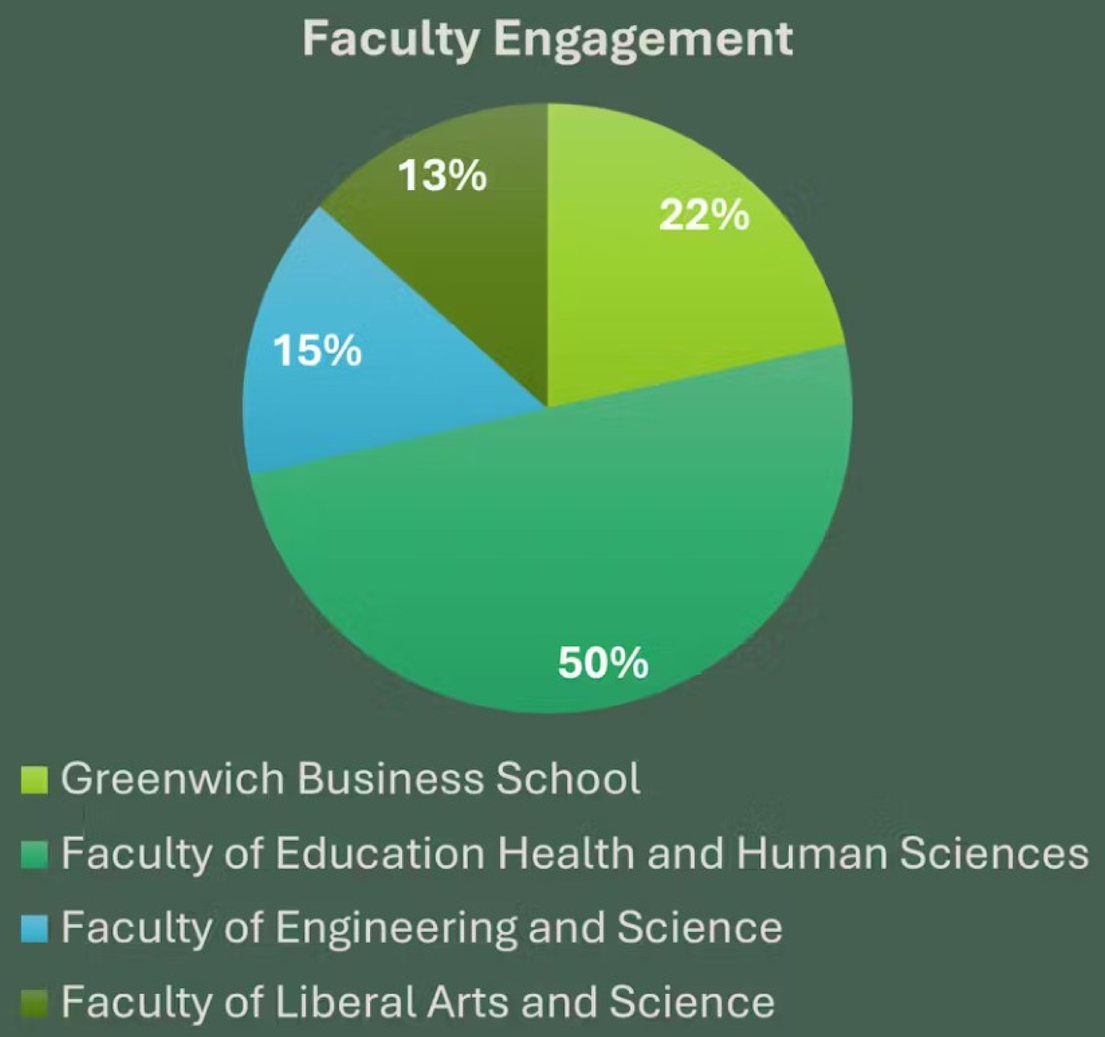
Typical usage in the day



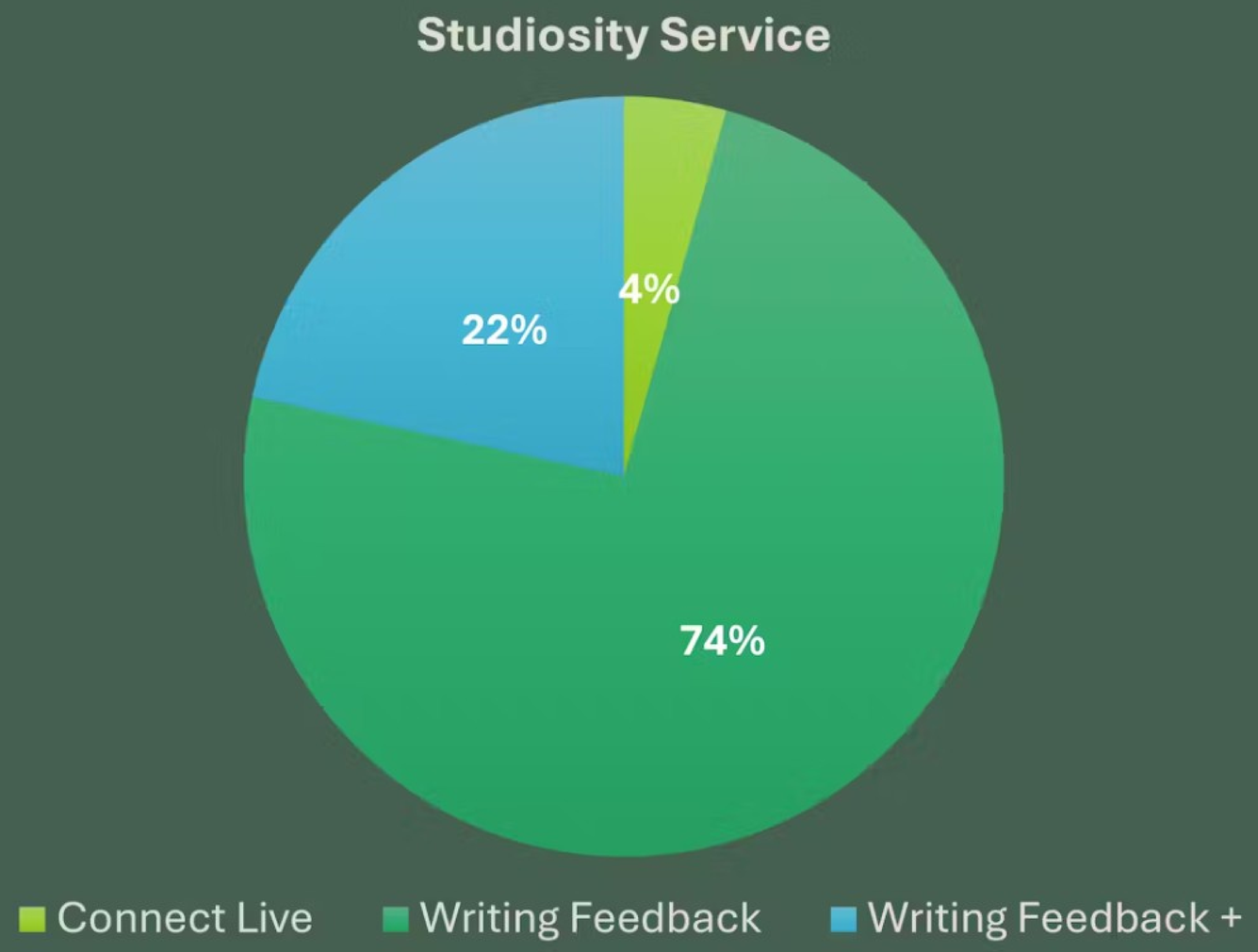
Typical usage in the week



Engagement by faculty (2023-2024)



Engagement by service



Student Engagement (2023-24)

10,000 students signed up

5,000 active (22%)

Average return time - 4 hours

Year Level	Number of students	Percentage
1st year undergraduate	2079	17%
2nd year undergraduate	2678	22%
3rd year undergraduate	3085	26%
Foundation/Pathway/Dip	244	2%
Postgraduate research	1096	9%
Postgraduate taught	2664	23%

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Last word...

Incorporating Studiosity Plus into your teaching helps your students develop stronger academic writing skills, manage their time more effectively, and ultimately achieve better grades.

Lightens your workload by providing initial feedback on writing, allowing you to focus on subject-specific content during your assessments.

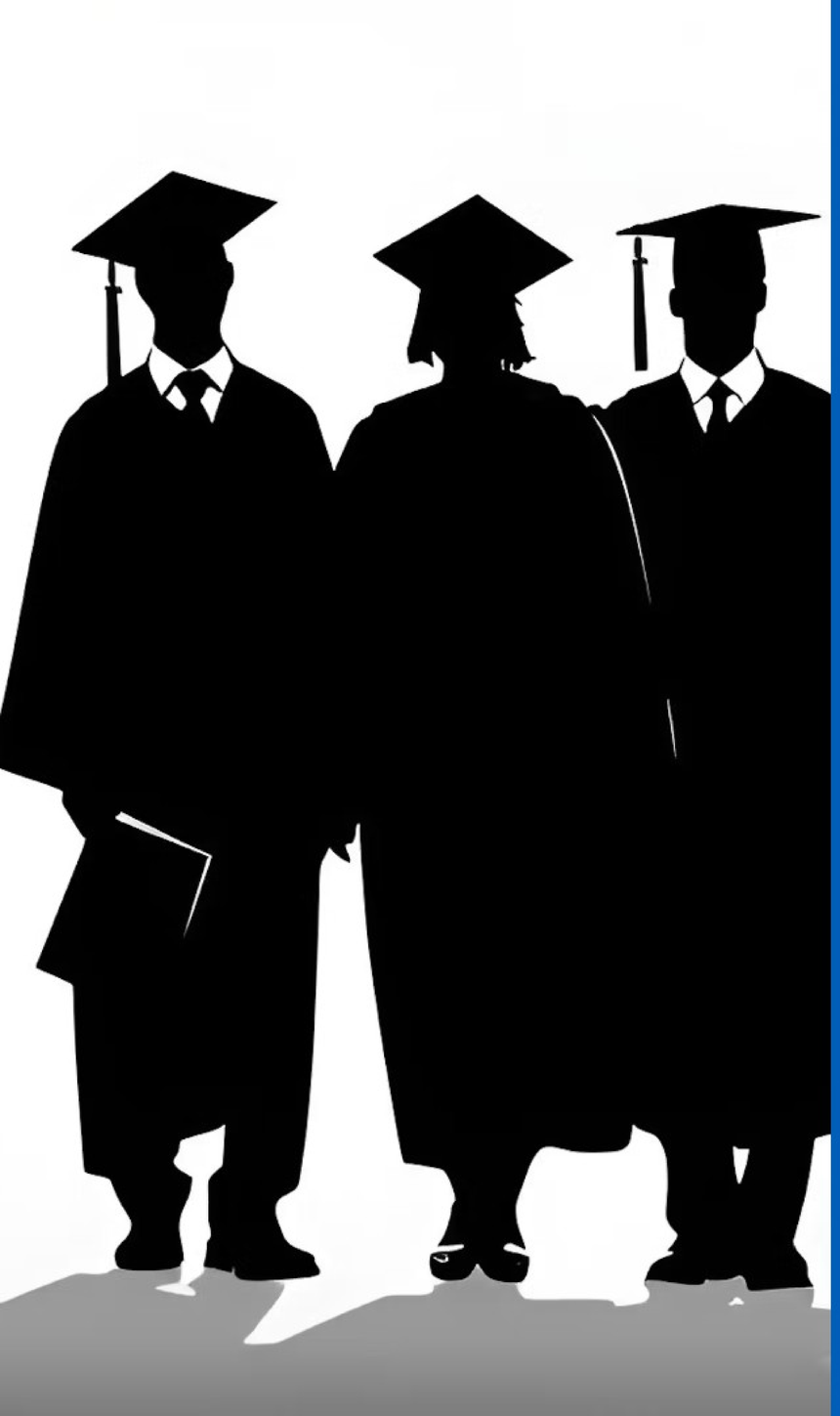
Digital Backpack

- A personalised digital skills portfolio for students.
- Equip students with essential digital skills for academic success and future careers.

Please use the Menti Question and Answer feature to share ideas, comments and questions during this session.

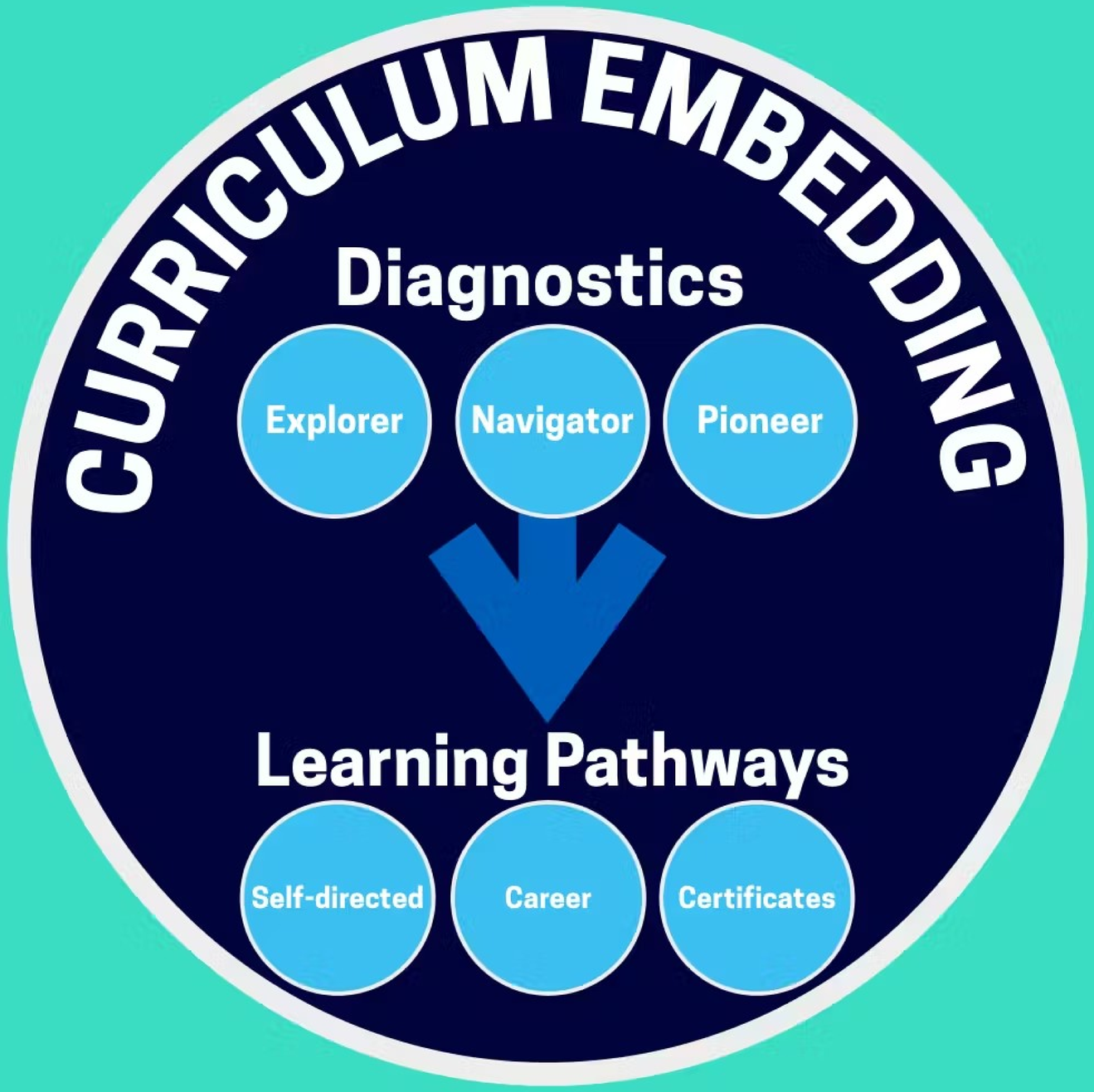
Presenter: Stuart Smith, Digital Skills Developer, University of Greenwich

SHIFT Conference 2025



University Benefits

- Alignment with 2030 Vision: Digital excellence.
- Enhanced Digital Competence: Digital first world.
- Inclusivity: Supports students from diverse back.
- Career Readiness: Equips students with skills demanded by employers.


CURRICULUM EMBEDDING
Diagnostics
Explorer
Navigator
Pioneer
Learning Pathways
Self-directed
Career
Certificates

Next Steps

- Build a robust Greenwich diagnostic tool
- You are invited to join the forum and review the development of the diagnostic tool
- Ask questions and make suggestions
- Make sure that it is fit for purpose for your students

References

1. Jisc, 2023. *Building digital capabilities: The six elements defined*. [online] Available at: <https://repository.jisc.ac.uk/8846/1/2022_Jisc_BDC_Individual_Framework.pdf> [Accessed 8 January 2025].

2. UK Government, 2018. *Essential Digital Skills Framework*. [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/essential-digital-skills-framework/essential-digital-skills-framework> [Accessed 8 January 2025].

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4. World Economic Forum, 2020. *The Future of Jobs Report 2020*. [online] Available at: <https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Future_of_Jobs_2020.pdf> [Accessed 8 January 2025].

5. Jisc, 2023. *Student digital experience insights survey 2022/23*. [online] Available at: <https://repository.jisc.ac.uk/9224/1/DEI-2023-student-he-report.pdf> [Accessed 8 January 2025].

6. University of Greenwich, 2024. *Digital Strategy 2022-2030 (March Update)*. [online] Available at: <https://www.gre.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/134570/digital-strategy-2022-2030-march-2024-update-4.pdf> [Accessed 8 January 2025].

AI Usage Declaration

The following AIs systems were used in preparation of this workshop.

Search Engines
Bing - general search
Google - general search

Generative AIs
Microsoft Copilot - research

Thank you! Please add any questions here...

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3 questions
0 upvotes

Contact us:

academic-and-digitalskills@greenwich.ac.uk