

Improving Student Support Services to Widen Participation

Peter Quinn, Director of Student Support , University of York:

- About the University of York
- From Welfare to Well-being
- 3 examples of widening participation activity



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About the University of York

- Just over 50 years old
- Total students: 16,469 (15,330 FTE)
- 1,329 research students, including over 520 international research students from 70 countries
- Maintained mature student numbers
- 12% of students disclosed a disability



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From Welfare to Well-being

- Giving support that 'underpins talent' rather than the welfare model which may only help in crisis.
- Acknowledging that all students need some guidance and support, engaging with services is 'success' NOT failure.
- Open Door Team model. College community. Student led campaigns . Workshops, Groups and Apps.



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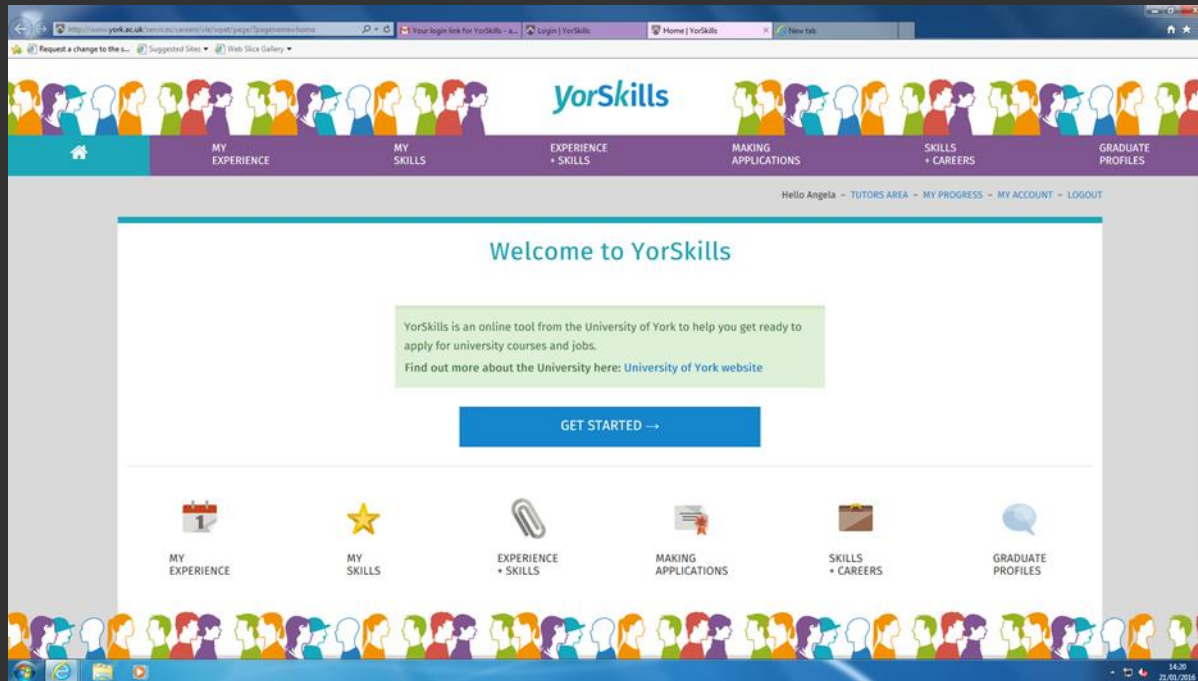
Example 1: **YorSkills**

- YorSkills Employability Resource . Collaboration between Widening Participation and Careers
- Based on a resource we use for ALL students at York
- YorSkills takes students on a step by step journey of skills recognition and reflection.. Encourages student to reflect, be proactive on work experience and opportunities that help with University applications and personal development (for those not applying)
- 400 6th form students used since 2015.



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Example 1 **YorSkills** cont



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Example 1 **YorSkills** cont



YorSkills

MY SKILLS | EXPERIENCE + SKILLS | MAKING APPLICATIONS

Universities and employers want skills you have used

During sixth form, I volunteered through the Scout movement as a Beaver young leader. I began this at 14 as part of my Duke of Edinburgh Award and then carried it on. I really enjoyed it and it helped me to develop some of the 'softer skills' often required by universities, and have solid examples to write about on an application form. For example, through this volunteer role, I could prove that I could work independently, had good communication skills and a certain level of initiative. All of these skills are things universities look for when considering applications.

— Naomi, University of York Psychology student

Worthwhile experiences help you to develop your skills. The opposite is also true: your skills have all been used and improved as part of your

What to do: Click a graduate to read what they have to say.

- Jessie Morgan** (MBBS Medicine) Paediatrician, NHS
"I imagined myself wandering around a hospital with a stethoscope looking after sick patients. In fact my job now involves so much more than that."
- Ed Hill** (BA History) Graduate Ambassador, University of York
"My Badminton Society experiences have given me good examples to draw on in interviews about team work and commitment."
- Katie Barclay** (BA Writing, Directing and Performance) Graduate Ambassador, University of York
"Doing a theatre degree certainly does not limit you to being an actor"
- Heather Lysiak** (BA English Literature and Philosophy) Activities Coordinator, Care UK
"Volunteering at uni has opened up lots of opportunities for my future: I never expected something I considered extra-curricular to become just as valuable to my professional career as my academic studies."

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Example 2: *Ambassadors / Networks*

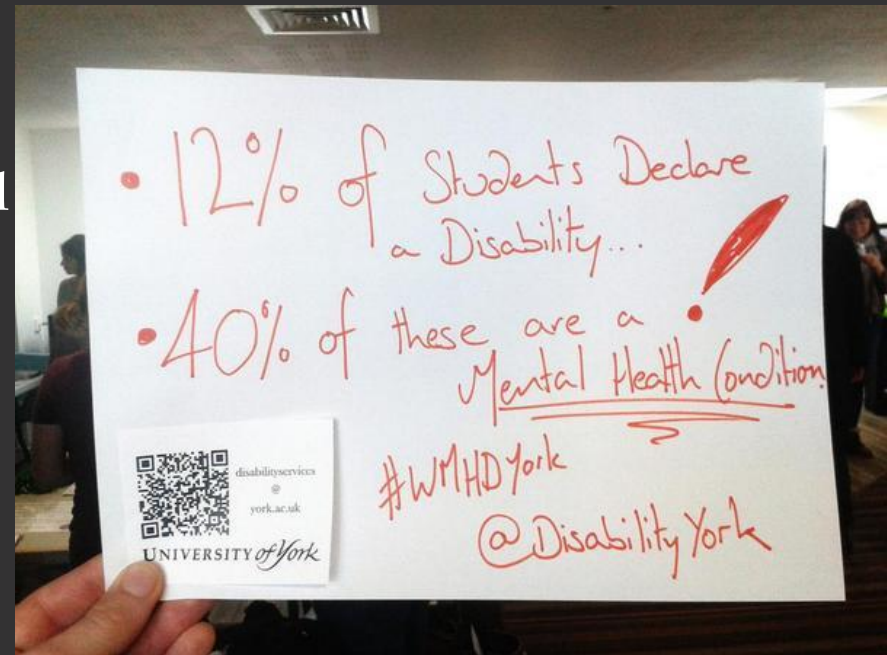
- Open Days / Post Offer Visit Days/ On Campus events: Normalising Disability



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Example 2: **Ambassadors / Networks** cont...

- Barriers to participation include **YOU** i.e **Teachers / Parents / Carers / Government**
- “University isn’t for you” or “University **is** for you and **they** will need to change for you as you are Different.”
- University can be a great stepping stone to independence if you **ENABLE**



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Example 3: **Compass for Campus**

- You Tube Resource of Students with Asperger's Syndrome at Universities.
- Made with Dept of Health and University support.
- Used people with Autism as Consultants for the project.
- Search :
Compass for Campus York



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Example 3: Compass for Campus cont....

UNIVERSITY of York

A-Z | Departments | Contacts | Maps

Current students

Support, welfare and health

Email | Calendar | Timetable | Yorkshare VLE | Library catalogue | e:Vision

Home » Student home » Support, welfare and health » Disability support » Help with specific impairments » Asperger's syndrome and autism » Compass for Campus

- Student home
- New students welcome site
- Studying at York
- IT and online services
- Campus and the city
- Support, welfare and health
 - Health and well-being
 - Academic progress
 - Disability support
 - What is a Disability
 - Admissions
 - Ways we can help
 - Help with specific impairments
 - Deaf or hearing impaired
 - Blind or visually impaired
 - Mobility impaired
 - Mental health difficulties
 - Dyslexia
 - Asperger's syndrome and autism
 - Compass for Campus
 - Other medical conditions
 - Disability funding
 - Disability facilities
 - Navigating campus
 - Student feedback

COMPASS for CAMPUS

Compass for Campus is a set of videos of students with autism talking about their experience of university. They demonstrate how students with Asperger's syndrome or autism can be successful at university and provide guidance to families and university staff on how best to support students.

See all the videos on the [Compass for Campus YouTube channel](#)

Video topics

- Student reflections
- Transition into university
- Funding for study support (Disabled Students Allowance, DSA)
- Reasonable adjustments
- Mentors
- Good practice in laboratories
- Time at university

Resources

These websites and resources have been selected by people with autism to help navigate your way into and through university.

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Thanks for listening!

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Via Linked In