



Providing academic support and improving transition into university life through Facebook groups

Shazia Ahmed

Sarah Honeychurch

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University of Glasgow



Diversity of students

Range of backgrounds



3 subjects – lack of community

Commuting students ~40%





Successful model for Maths and Computing

Extended to some then all schools in the College of Science & Engineering

Landing site with links to subject-specific groups

Over half of 2013-14 cohort joined main group before arriving



Conversations with each other



Conversations with senior students

Questions relating to:

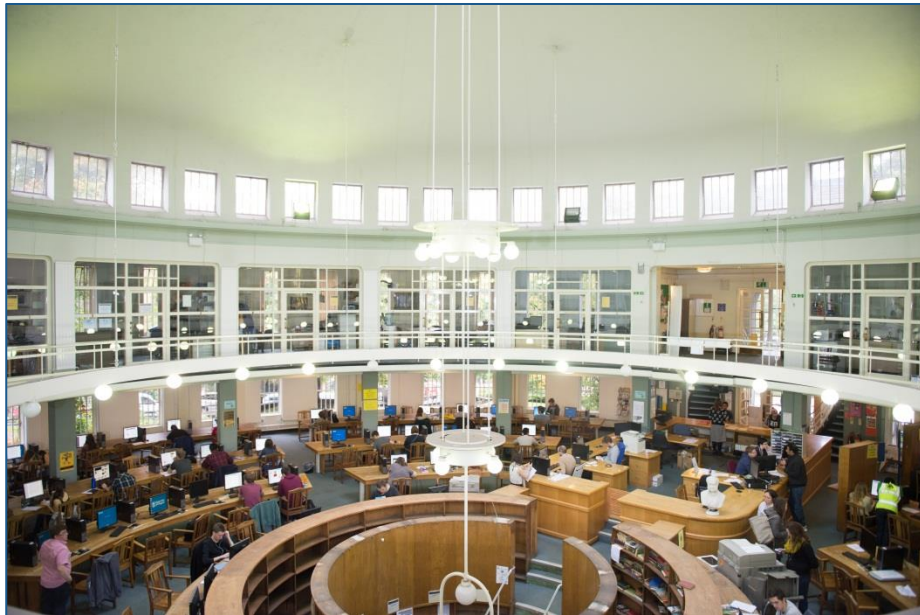
- Their course
- The University
- Glasgow generally





Conversations with staff

- Reassurance
- Pre-entry resources





Shazia Ahmed

28 August at 15:53

Last week the Scottish students joined up, and we should now have Rest of UK and International students joining us 😊

Welcome to the Facebook group! I am the Maths Adviser in the Student Learning Service.

Like · Comment

👍 5 people like this.

✓ Seen by 157



Shazia Ahmed Please feel free to say hello -- senior students, would you like to start this off?

28 August at 15:58 · Like



[redacted], welcome to Glasgow 😊 I'm a third year Physics and Astronomy student here to help out with any questions you guys might have (even if it is just to tell you who you should actually ask!). I recommend joining the subject specific groups that are listed in a post pinned at the top of the group as they are a great help (we still use our one from first year now 😊)

28 August at 16:19 · Unlike · 👍 2



[redacted] I'm [redacted] and I'm just going into fourth year of comp sci. I seem to have been in these pages for years, so I should be able to answer most questions 😊 if you have a question that hasn't been answered already and you think I'll be able to answer it, or you've got something too silly to ask on a group, feel free to drop me a message! 😊

28 August at 20:25 · Unlike · 👍 2





25 August at 15:11

Would you guys be able to help me with my enrolment? I'm so confused and worried haha!

Like · Comment

 3 people like this. ✓ Seen by 165

**Sarah Honeychurch** Can you see who your adviser is in the registration bit? They are the best ones to help as they are experts.
25 August at 15:13 · Like ·  1



so if i just email them some questions they'll be cool with that?

25 August at 15:14 · Like

**Sarah Honeychurch** Yes. They are used to it. Don't worry or think you are bothering them.
25 August at 15:17 · Like



Perfect thank you so much!

25 August at 15:18 · Like

**Sarah Honeychurch** Let us know how you get on
25 August at 15:19 · Like ·  1



i think i got it sorted out, the suggested classes in the help and support are really useful!

Yesterday at 00:09 · Unlike ·  2

**Sarah Honeychurch** Good. Glad to hear that 😊
Yesterday at 00:11 · Like



Shazia Ahmed I'm not sure if you're the right person to ask about this, but I have a question. I'm doing the BSc Electronic & Software Engineering programme, and MyCampus gave me the choice between maths 1R/1S and 1X/1Y. I put down 1R/1S but just want to make sure this is the correct choice- I got a B for both higher and advanced higher maths.

22 August at 03:59 · Edited · Like

1R/S are probably best for most people unless you felt unchallenged in advanced higher. These courses will pretty much go over all of advanced higher plus a couple of topics you might not have done before. 1X/Y are harder and don't count for extra credit or anything. They do however cover some harder topics in more depth, but to me 1R/S is the way to go if you are not doing a math degree either way, since the work load is lighter.

ps. I'm just going in to 3rd year honours Astronomy and Physics and found 1R/S prepared me well enough for any level 2 maths I had to do. I'll be floating around in the maths and physics groups!

22 August at 08:54 · Like · 2



Shazia Ahmed Hi looking at the course catalogue (link below) you are required to have an A in Adv Higher Maths to pursue 1X/Y. As said, either course will be fine for continuing to level 2 maths but if you are really keen to go for 1X/Y then speak to your Adviser and see what they say.

22 August at 09:18 · Like · 2



Shazia Ahmed 1X -- <http://www.gla.ac.uk/coursecatalogue/course/?code=MATHS1004>

1R -- <http://www.gla.ac.uk/coursecatalogue/course/?code=MATHS1001>

22 August at 09:20 · Like · 1



this is why you're the one in charge Shazia Ahmed 😊

22 August at 09:26 · Like



Shazia Ahmed That's very kind. And I always thought it's because I am the scariest 😊

22 August at 09:31 · Like · 2



It would have been that but starting a Knitting club ruined it all 😊

Examples

 
27 August at 22:54


So what kind of engineering is everybody doing? No one I've spoken to is doing the same course as me!



Unlike · Comment

 You and Sarah Honeychurch like this.

✓ Seen by 33



  Aeronautical
27 August at 22:55 · Like



  Aeronautical 😊
27 August at 22:56 · Like

  Electronic & software
27 August at 22:57 · Like

  Civil with architecture :)))
27 August at 22:57 · Like ·  3


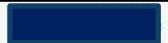

  I'm civil with architecture too
27 August at 22:59 · Like ·  4

  I'm doing aerospace systems, I imagine well all be in the same kind of classes for 1st year?
27 August at 23:05 · Like

  Yeah probably for stuff like maths, statics and dynamics I'm assuming? 😊
27 August at 23:06 · Like

  Yeah statics dynamics engineering skill and engineering mathematics will be generic I presume 😊!
27 August at 23:07 · Like ·  2

  Electronic and Software 😊
27 August at 23:09 · Like ·  2

  biomedical
27 August at 23:18 · Like ·  1

  Product design
27 August at 23:22 · Like


  Civil Eng with architecture! 😊
27 August at 23:22 · Like ·  2

  Im doing electronic and electrical
27 August at 23:26 · Like ·  2

  Civil with architecture 😊
28 August at 00:32 · Like ·  1

  Mobile software anyone?
28 August at 01:20 · Like ·  1

  Electronics and Electrical
28 August at 07:40 · Like ·  1

 **Shazia Ahmed** Most of first year will be the same for all of you! 😊
28 August at 09:18 · Like

  Aeronautical here 😊
28 August at 10:48 · Like

  😊 so many aeronauticals, shouldn't be hard to find buds 😊
28 August at 15:58 · Unlike ·  3

 **Shazia Ahmed** That's what I like to hear !
28 August at 15:59 · Like ·  1



Caelum Davies ▶ **SLS Science and Engineering 2013-14 Entrants**

20 August 2013 ·

For those still having trouble with enrolling, here is a wee update from the Uni 😊

<https://sharepoint.gla.ac.uk/students/myglasgow/Pages/myglasgowannounce.aspx?itemid=15>

Hope it helps, from your Maths and Stats Rep!



Caelum Davies uploaded a file in the group **SLS Level 2 Maths and Stats 2014-15** ▼

19 November 2013 ·

Hi, just wanted to give people a record of everything that's going on right now in your world of Reps! This has come out of the meeting with the Class Reps I held today, but also your emails, the surgery and Student Voice! Drop me an email if there is anything you wish to discuss! It's all ready for my meeting with the Head of School tomorrow!



MathsStatsReps131119.pdf · version 1

Portable Document Format

Download

Preview



Caelum Davies shared an event to the group SLS Level 2 Maths and Stats 2014-15.

3 March · 🌐

Hi! I hope you have found me to be a good School Rep over the past year, and if you have this Wednesday and Thursday I would really appreciate it if you could vote to me to be your next VP Education at the SRC!

Take a look at my page for more reasons as to why I am the best for the job! Thanks, people! #YesWeCal

<https://www.facebook.com/events/246703012180606/?fref=ts>

Vote Wed 5th March 9am until
Thurs 6th March 5pm at
glasgowstudent.net

**VOTE
CAL
DAVIES
VP ED**

Manifesto at same link
@Caelum
#YesWeCal

VOTE CAL DAVIES VP EDUCATION

6 March at 16:55
glasgowstudent.net
242 people went

Go to



Caelum Davies

28 August at 17:03

Hi all! Welcome to Glasgow!

I am one of the elected officers at Students Representative Council in charge of dealing with all things Education! There are four of us all together that deal with issues that you might have! (<https://www.facebook.com/glasgowuniversitysrc?fref=ts>)

What are you most excited about?! You will all have an amazing time!





Managing so many groups can be time-consuming

Tools:

- Spreadsheet to create bank of reusable posts
- Buffer/Hootsuite/Tweetdeck for scheduling
- IFTTT



Shazia Ahmed

6 May

"...don't even think of pulling an all-nighter before an exam: researchers say that does more harm than good. Last-minute cramming refuses to sink in, because the consolidation of memories occurs during deep sleep."



What happens to your body if you don't let it sleep?

Students regard 'pulling all-nighters' as a necessary evil. But beware: sleep deprivation can do serious damage

THEGUARDIAN.COM | BY DAVID COX



Shazia Ahmed

19 March

Charity & Volunteering Fair
Thursday 20 March, 1000 - 1300
Wolfson Medical Building, Atrium

Do you want to work in the Charity & Voluntary sector?

Come to the fair and find out what opportunities are open to you. Whether you're thinking about your long term career or looking for a summer volunteering project, this event is not to be missed!

Open to all students at the University of Glasgow. Registration is upon arrival.

Exhibitors include: Duke of Edinburgh Scotland, Guide Dogs, International Voluntary Service, Muscular Dystrophy Campaign and Xchange Scotland.



Sarah Honeychurch

12 March

Some good thoughts here: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/11/habits-of-organized-peopl_n_4921454.html



14 Habits Of Ultra-Organized People

They're the people who just love to check things off a list. Their idea of heaven is The Container Store. And they sure know their way around a spreadsheet. They're the ultra-organized, and to those who prefer things a little less tidy, their ways ar...



Sarah Honeychurch

23 January

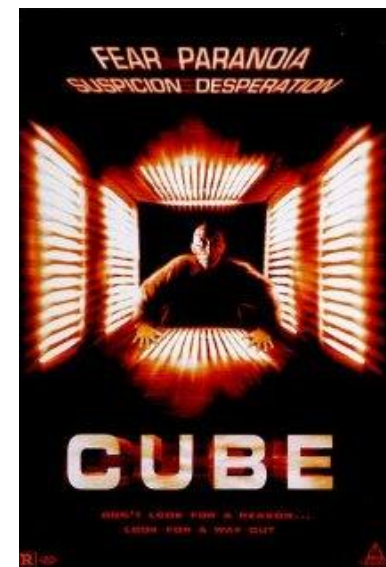
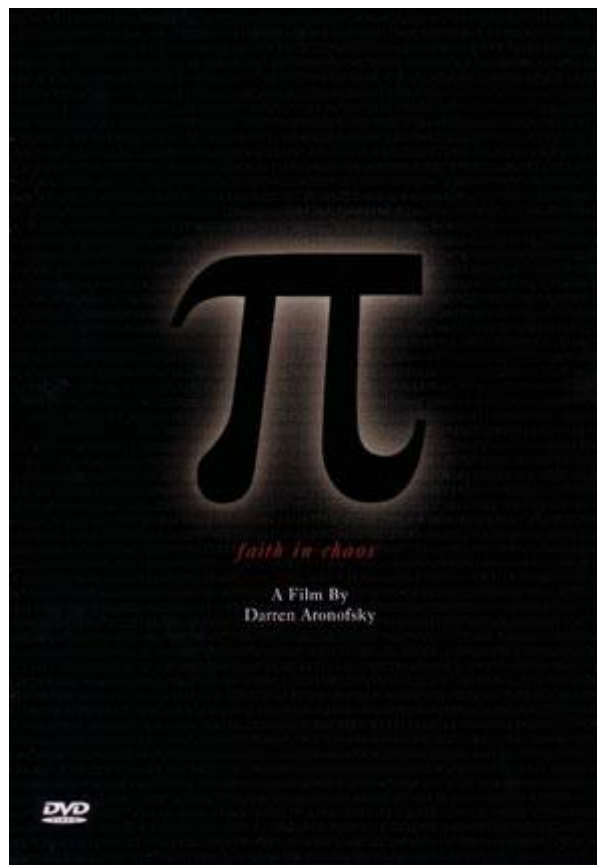
What do you think about this?: <http://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/jan/23/sixth-form-students-university-spoonfeeding>



Sixth form students: get ready for an education without spoonfeeding



Facebook event for Film afternoon





Wednesday, 3 April 2013 at 15:00

More than a year ago



Committee Room 3, QMU

The Student Learning Service will soon be hosting our first ever 'Mathematical Film' event and we will be screening 'Fermat's Room'. There will be a popcorn interval and a post-film discussion! Please come along to have a quick, sociable break from your studies, catch up with your classmates and have a chat about Maths :-). Please 'join' the event so that we know how much popcorn to bring along!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=meE5fqX61KA>

You know you need to get our more when you spend more time than you're willing to admit figuring out how to align the presses to build that room...

GUESTS

30

went

4

maybe



Caelum Davies

3 April 2013

Can't wait for the film and the popcorn!



Unlike · Comment · Share



like this.



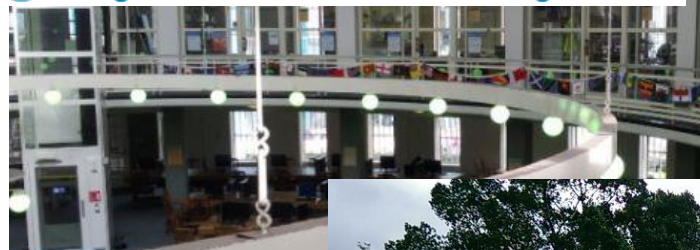
Weekly group, open to all students and staff, held at lunchtime in SLS maths teaching room


Monthly group, mostly postgrads, held in PG club in the evening

FB group used to share articles, patterns, organise trips, etc.



Knitted flags made by @GlasgowUni staff, students & friends out on railings for @Glasgow2014 road race. #Glasgow2014



 glasgowuniknitting @glasgowuniknit · Aug 3

Inspired by all the visitors to Glasgow, we knitted all the flags of Commonwealth nations! #bbcglasgow2014





Keep going with these Facebook groups and try as hard as possible to get EVERYONE in the group as early as possible in first year. In my experience as a student who travels in, it helps feel a part of the University. Without the Facebook groups I would feel a lot more isolated and probably at lot less engaged

Personally it gives me confidence because if someone posts a question that you were stuck on also...it makes you feel less stupid because you know that other people are also struggling with some concepts in the course, its not just you

It builds a sense of community and you learn peoples faces and their names

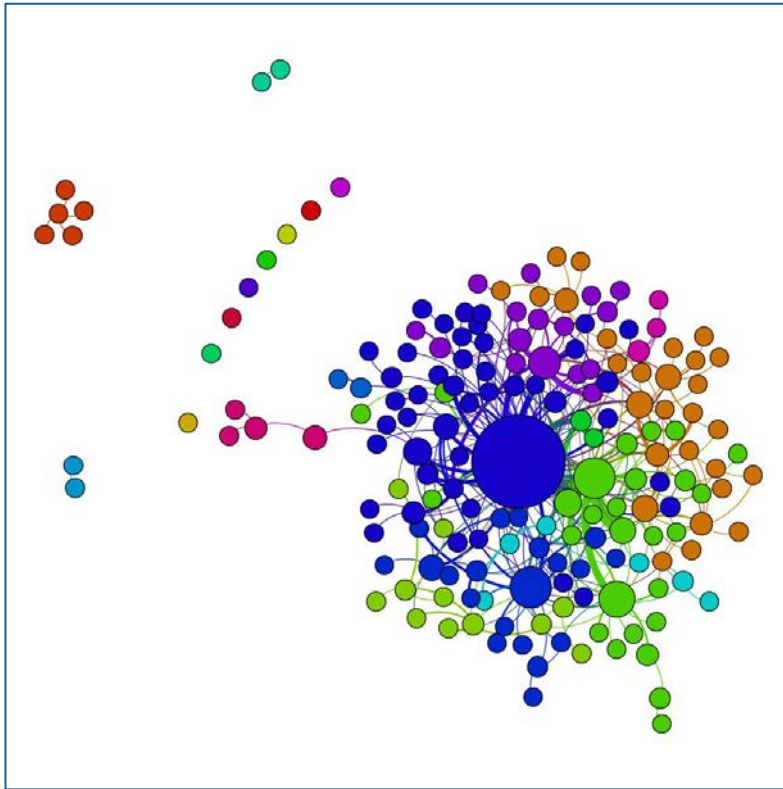
Its like being in a tutorial sometimes.

If you're stuck / need to know some piece of information it takes literally seconds to hop on Facebook and make a post. Also, because the uptake of the groups, in terms of membership, is so high, you're likely to get an accurate response very quickly

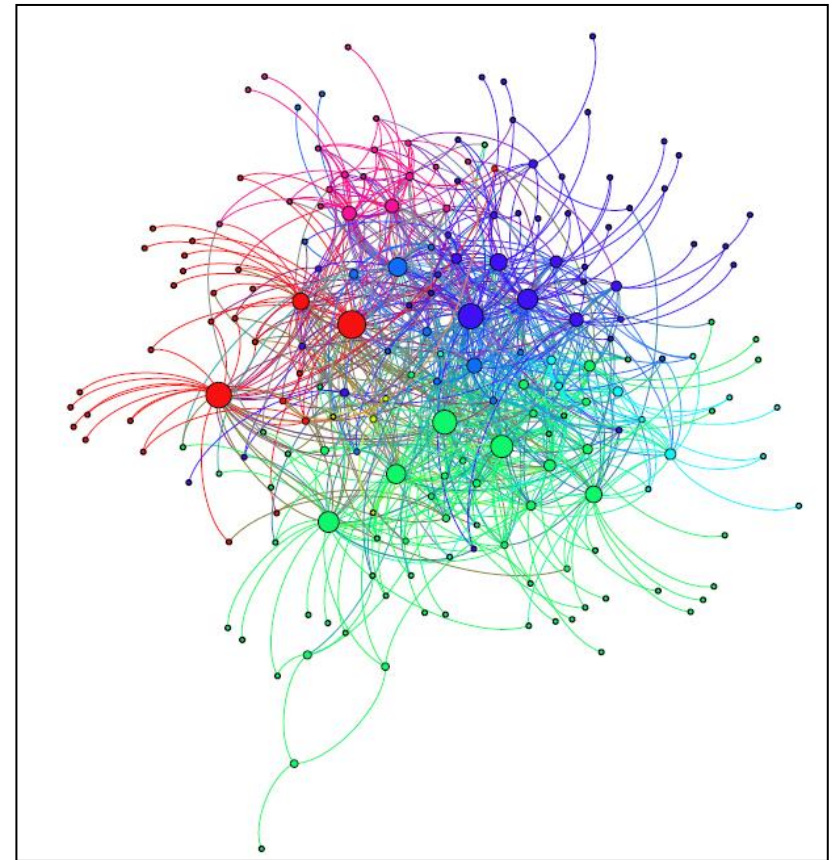
FB groups have been invaluable



Social network analysis / Sentiment Analysis



Entrants group 2013-14 – interactions



Level 1 Psychology group 2013-14 – interactions



Shazia Ahmed

<https://twitter.com/ShaziaAhmed>

Sarah Honeychurch

<https://twitter.com/nomadwarmachine>

Caelum Davies

<https://twitter.com/CaelumD>

Social Media and Learning Communities

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/12544718765832/>