



Learning to Learn Building Belonging from the Beginning

University of Manchester
Institute of Teaching & Learning
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Catherine Porter, Will Holmes,
Catherine Collin & Andy Gridley

Pillars of Belonging



Connection

Inclusion

support

autonomy



[Wonkhe/Pearson report:
Building Belonging in
Higher Education](#)

Connection: People



Find your
building



Trial case
accident



Speed
dating



Two
truths
and a lie



Images by author



Video by author

Connection: People



Cafes open on campus

- Smiths Cafe
- Cafe 65, AMBS
- Alan Gilbert Cafe, Learning Commons
- Library Coffee Cart
- Starbucks on North Campus
- Source Cafe, Owens Park

Coffee with your academic advisor



Connection: Places



Images by author

Autonomy



Images by author

Creating Memories

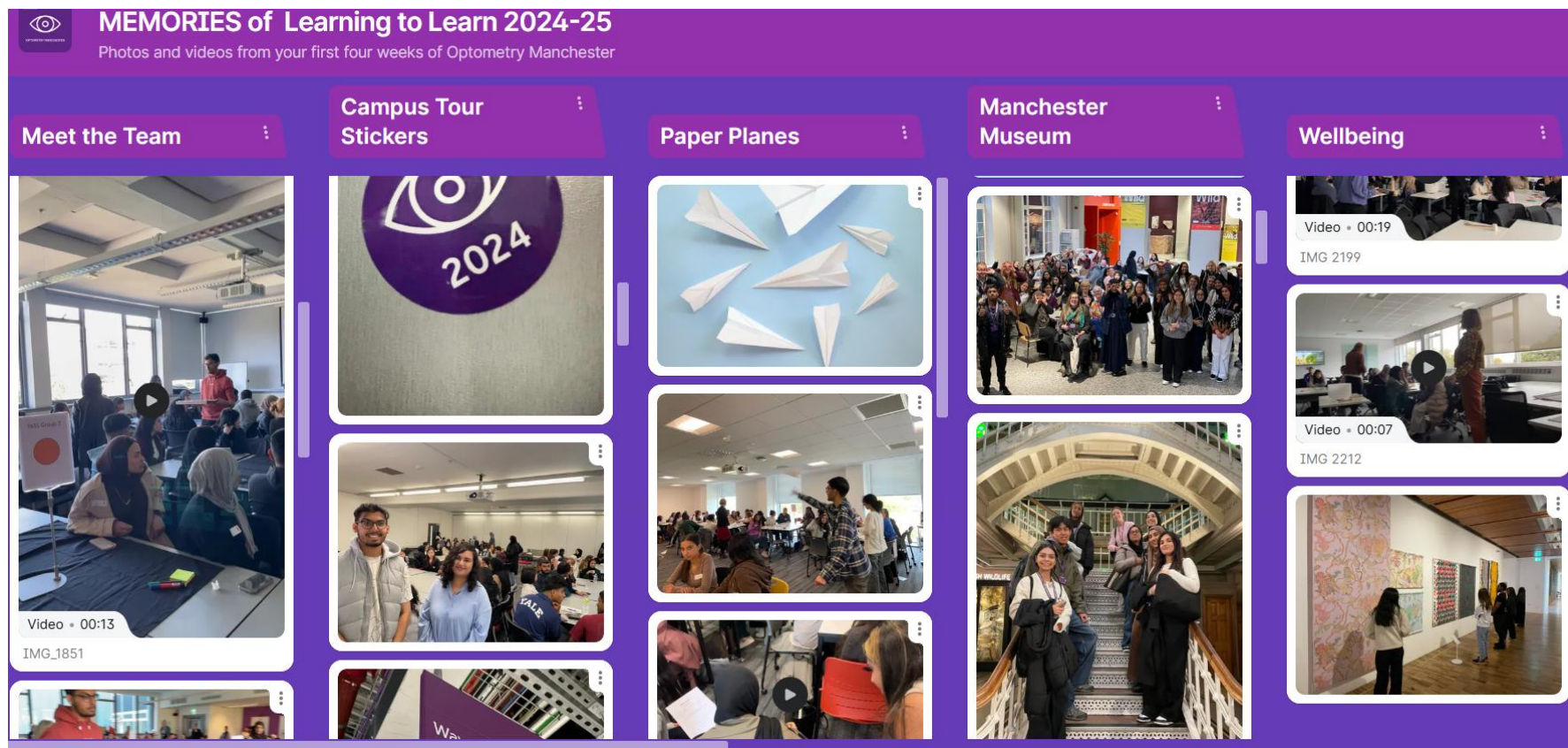


Image by author

Evaluation Questionnaire

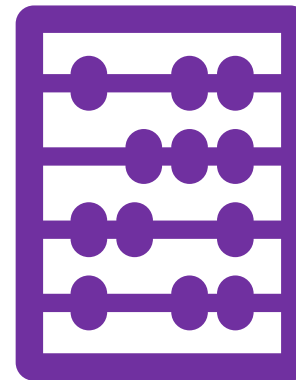
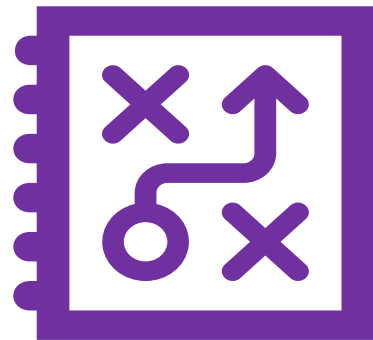


- 85% response rate
- Do you feel part of the Optometry community?
 - 71% Yes
 - 29 % Partly
- Students reported that they had made an average of 19 new connections with other students



Image by author

Which sessions were most useful?



Which sessions Did They Enjoy the Most



Images by author

Student Quotes



"The activities in the first few weeks helped me to meet nearly all the people on the course"

"I speak to new people in my groups each time and we all are having similar experiences which helps us bond and feel like a community"

"I find myself engaging and initiating conversation with people with people I hadn't met before which is a massive change in my personality as I (don't) usually feel comfortable in talking to strangers"

"It's really nice to see that we're actually connected to so many different things. And it's not just this solitary, this is how you learn. It's, this is the environment we're going to be learning in"

Belonging



2023/2024

- Engagement - 3.56 (+/-0.62)
- Belonging - 3.98 (+/-0.69)
- Self Confidence - 3.20 (+/-0.56)

2024/2025

- Engagement - 4.00 (+/-0.51)
- Belonging - 4.33 (+/-0.52)
- Self Confidence - 3.36 (+/-0.69)

Yorke, M. (2016). The development and initial use of a survey of student 'belongingness', engagement and self-confidence in UK higher education. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education*, 41(1), 154–166.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/02602938.2014.990415>



Ready to Tackle the course ahead



“I appreciate that this experience helped me gradually settle into university life, with it being a huge change. It was definitely supportive of my wellbeing. Thank you for creating this for us”



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