

# Associate Students in SEBE – Out of Sight but Not Out of Mind

Associate Students are FE College students who have a personal guarantee of a place at Edinburgh Napier on a designated degree programme with advanced standing, subject to achieving agreed academic entry requirements.

A range of interventions ensure that students are prepared and supported to negotiate the boundaries that both separate and conjoin college and university.



Alastair Stupart leads the Associate Student project in SEBE.



Jane McDowell, Subject Librarian has been visiting Associate Students in college along with colleagues from student learning. Their sessions support students to prepare for transition through developing skills such as referencing, note taking and report writing.

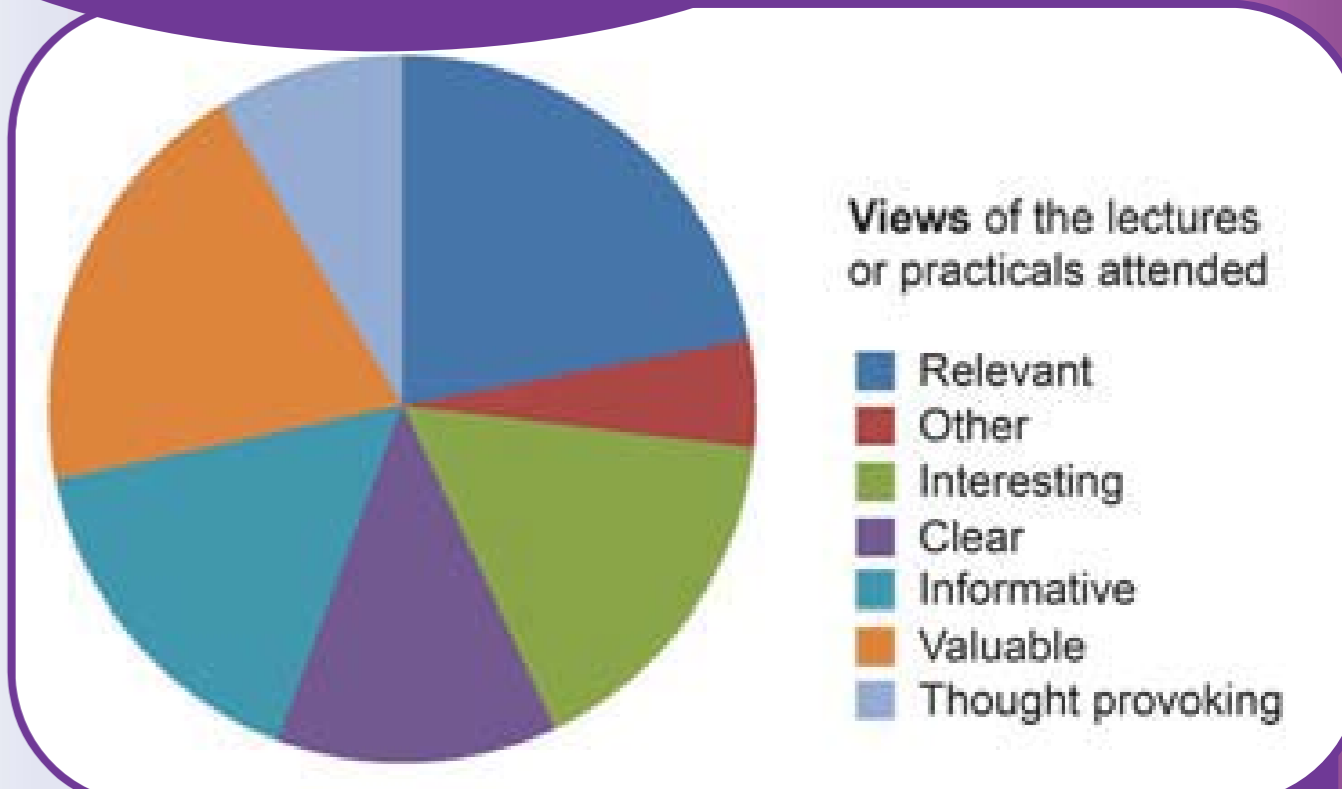
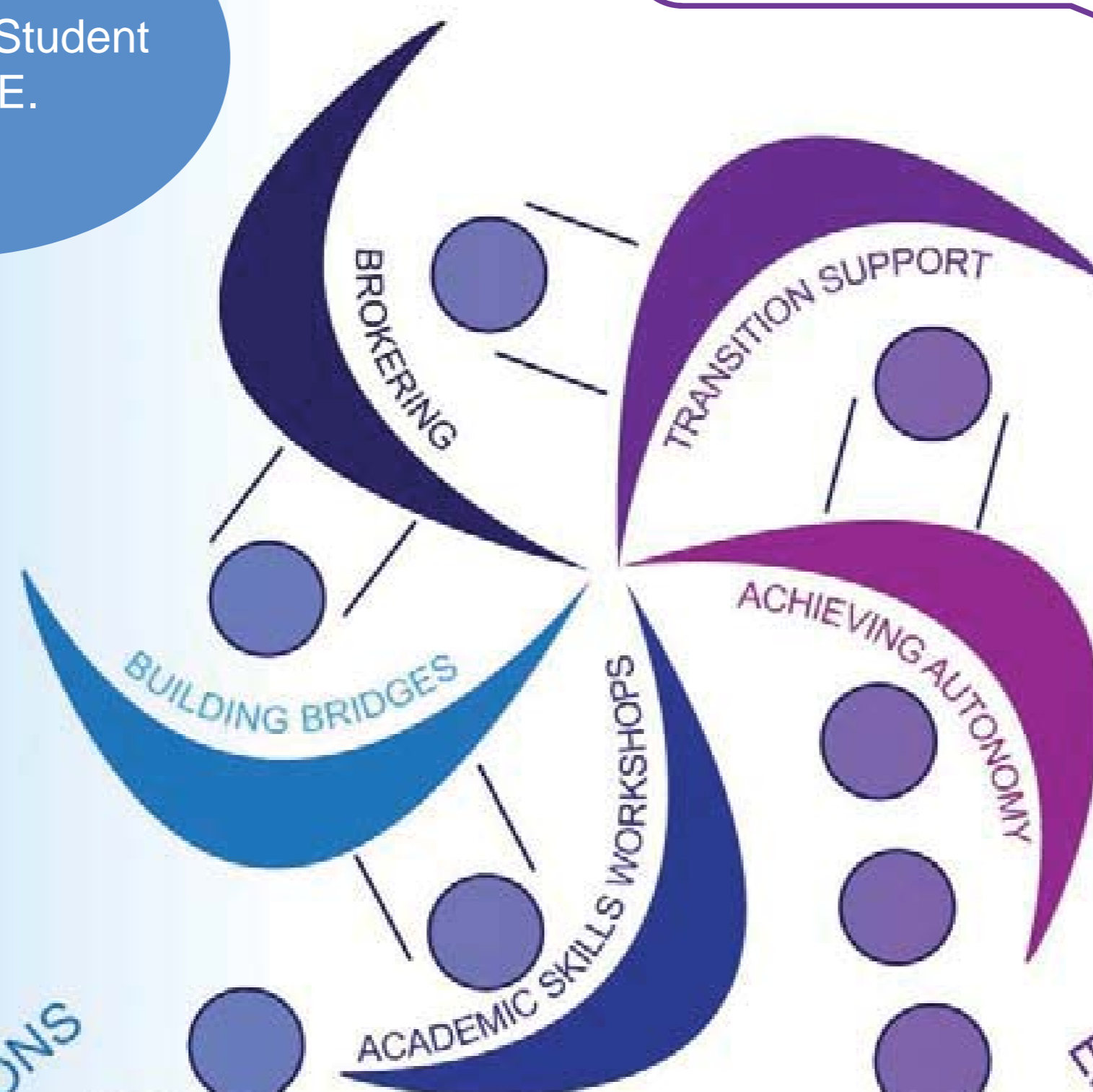
“the lecturers are valuable and should run in parallel with college classes as they cover more than college has to offer”  
Sebastian Lungu

“lectures and practicals would be very useful”  
Adam Al-Khateb

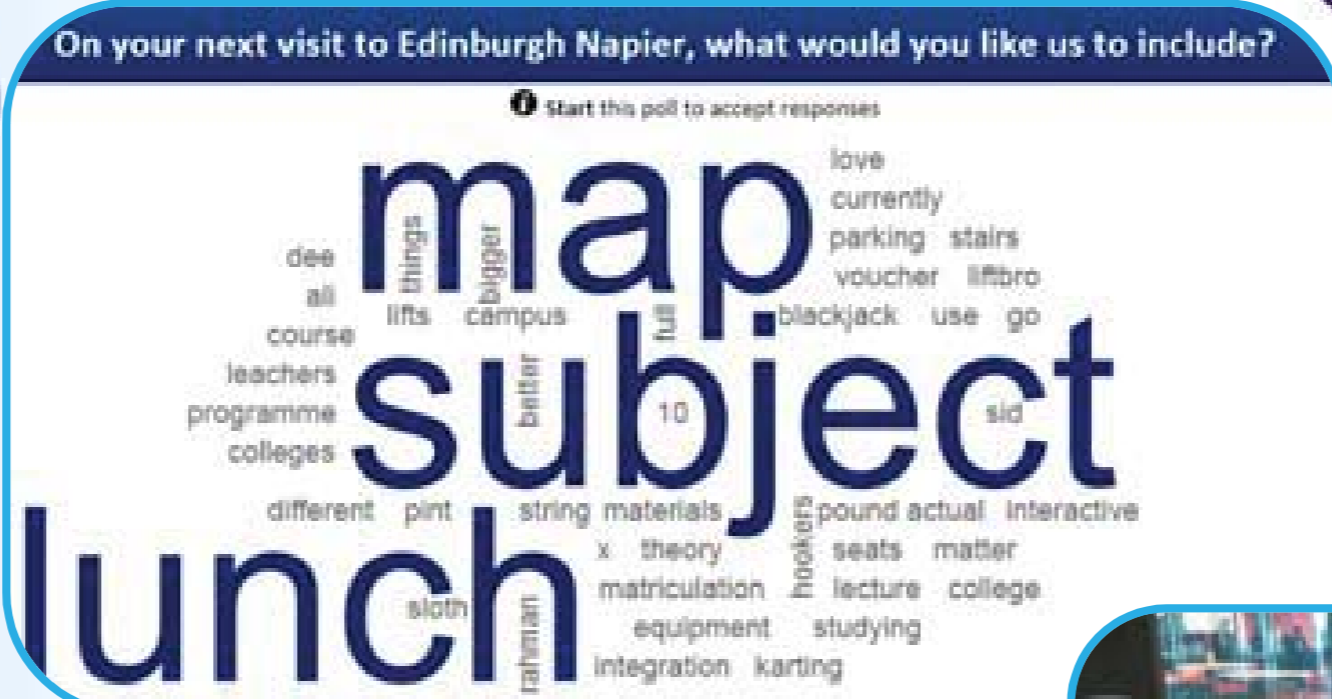
“more lab experiments !!”  
Calum van Neil



Civil engineering lab (shear box test) April 2014. The session was led by Willie Laing in a topic chosen in negotiation with lecturers in college.



Students from college were invited to attend lecturers in week 11 of T2 (March 2014). Lectures were aligned with college programme of study.



Induction for first year Associate students, October 2013. Engineering students from four partner colleges attended an induction day comprising lectures, campus tour, library visit and a chance to meet university staff and students.



HIGHER NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

ENGINEERING DEGREE PROGRAMMES

College

University

## Widening participation

Associate Students were introduced in 2013/14 under the SFC's Additional Funded Places scheme. It forms part of a range of widening participation initiatives that provide flexible routes into higher education.

## Associate Students 2013-14

In September 2015, 54 students from 4 colleges will start studying in 3rd year on three different engineering courses at Merchiston. In addition to the personal guarantee of a place on a designated degree programme, the Associate Student offer at Napier includes access to resources such as library and gym, as well as ongoing communication with the University and other educational activities.

We anticipate that in the years ahead a similar number of engineering students will be enrolling as Associate Students. Our work demonstrated in this poster is shaping the range and nature of interventions that we offer to students prior to them joining year 3 on SEBE engineering programmes. An equivalent project is underway in the School of Computing.

## Boundary crossing

We deploy theoretical conceptions of academic transitions as 'boundary crossing' (Akkerman and Bakker, 2011) and explore how the effectiveness of a range of practical initiatives such as those illustrated above may be theorized and understood by reference to their potential as boundary workers, boundary objects (Star, 2010) and brokers (Wenger, 1989).