Fostering Ukrainian Students' Satisfaction wIth University: Suggestions for Improving Ukrainian Students' Satisfaction with the University Experience Through Support and Engagement

LESSON 8

HOW TUTORS CAN ACKNOWLEDGE AND VALIDATE STUDENTS' PRIOR LEARNING EXPERIENCES

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Perceptions of Inclusion, well-being and Identiflcation with the European Union in Ukrainian university students

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What Is Prior Learning?

- Formal education and qualifications
- Informal and non-formal learning
- Professional and life experiences
- Skills gained in different contexts

Why Prior Learning Matters

- Students arrive with diverse backgrounds
- Prior experiences shape learning styles
- Recognition builds confidence
- Valuing experience supports inclusion

The Role of the Academic

- Acknowledges diverse learning pathways
- Creates space for students’ experiences
- Connects prior knowledge to new content
- Supports academic integration

Recognising Different Educational Systems

- Variation in curricula and assessment
- Different teaching and learning approaches
- Avoiding deficit-based assumptions
- Focusing on strengths and potential

Creating Opportunities to Share Experience

- Classroom discussions
- Reflective assignments
- Group work and peer exchange
- Voluntary sharing, not obligation

Validating Without Lowering Standards

- Respect experience while maintaining academic expectations
- Clarify equivalence and learning outcomes
- Ensure transparency and fairness
- Balance recognition and requirements

Using Prior Learning as a Learning Resource

- Link theory to real-life experience
- Encourage peer learning
- Enrich discussions with diverse perspectives
- Strengthen relevance of course content

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Supporting Academic Confidence

- Acknowledge existing skills
- Encourage transfer of knowledge
- Reduce self-doubt and insecurity
- Promote active participation

Addressing Gaps Respectfully

- Identify learning needs without stigma
- Provide clear guidance for development
- Offer additional resources
- Frame gaps as part of learning

Prior Learning in Assessment and Feedback

- Transparent assessment criteria
- Feedback linked to individual progress
- Recognition of applied knowledge
- Clear expectations for improvement

Cultural Sensitivity in Recognition

- Different attitudes toward self-presentation
- Avoid pressure to self-promote
- Respect cultural communication styles
- Encourage participation in multiple ways

Benefits for Students

- Increased sense of value and respect
- Stronger academic identity
- Greater engagement and motivation
- Smoother academic transition

Benefits for the Learning Environment

- Richer classroom discussions
- Mutual respect among students
- More inclusive learning culture
- Better use of collective knowledge

Practical Actions for Academics

- Ask about students’ backgrounds early
- Design flexible learning activities
- Encourage experience-based examples
- Reflect diversity in teaching materials

Thank you

Any Question?

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