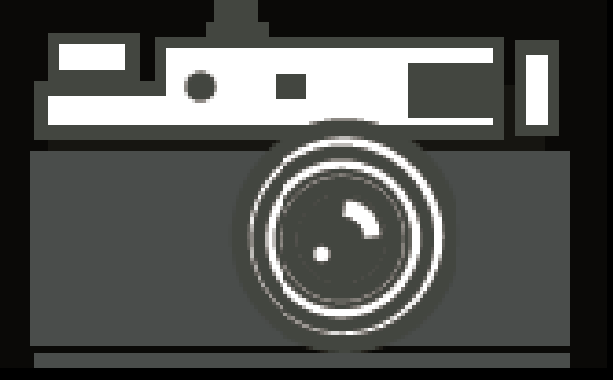# One size does not fit all – a holistic approach to helping a diverse student population make the successful transition to academic life in an Irish Institute of Higher Education

Student Resource Centre

PASS:
• Second year students facilitate timetabled study sessions for first years

Social and academic integration improve student retention (Tinto, 1975)

AIT Engage:
• Collaboration between the Student Resource Centre and the AIT Students' Union clubs and societies
• Aimed at promoting student engagement and integration

Learning & Teaching Unit

Learning 2 Learn (L2L):
• Contextualised to each discipline area using active learning techniques
Key academic skills, i.e. ICT, creativity, innovation, teamwork, note-taking, writing assignments, reflective learning

'Evidence has shown that students who complete the learning to learn module have a higher chance of completing the entire programme' (Equal Ireland, n.d.)

Continuous Staff Development:
• Creating an Inclusive Curriculum
• Reflective practice

L2L

PASS

PASS

DAP

AIT Engage

PASS

International Office

The creation of an internally inclusive campus and the provision of appropriate information, services and programmes are critical to helping students have positive experiences (Andrade, 2006)

Practical pastoral and academic supports

Developing Academic Practice (DAP):
• A second language directed approach to L2L
• Academic culture
• Learning strategies and research skills
• Reflective learning
• Self-directed learning and critical thinking skills
• Intercultural communication
• Teamwork in a cross-cultural context
• Presentations

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