

Students As Researchers A Student-Authored, Web-Based, Subject-Specific Resource Site

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My Real Estate:

A case study of staff and student collaborative research

Project aims:

- To create a student-authored web-based resource for Real Estate students that would aid learning, provoke thought and create a sense of community.
- A **digital common room** containing advice and guidance from existing students and staff for incoming students to aid their transition onto Real Estate courses

Research:

- We employed four undergraduate Real Estate students as researchers and two postgraduate Built Environment students to support them in their work
- We wanted to identify resources to aid transition onto and learning in the Real Estate program from the student perspective
- The students researched the views of fellow students and of staff

Challenges:

- We hugely overestimated the amount of work the students could do
- "It was very difficult to get responses to our questionnaires." "Yes, and hard to get people to come to the focus groups"
- "We didn't expect some of the responses we got from staff"
- Lack of skills among the team slowed down progress



Benefits:

- The students were very motivated
- They developed in confidence and skills
- "Working in a mix of students and staff is not something I've done before. It was a great learning experience and hugely enjoyable"
- "We've never run focus groups before. And wouldn't ever have thought about interviewing staff"
- "I learned so much from all the others on the team"

What we would do differently:

- A clearer brief for the student researchers
- More focused tasks, especially early on
- "We should have involved the academic staff earlier."
- What we got from them was the key to the whole project"

The Future:

After excellent feedback from SHU staff and external groups, the project looks set to continue with the resource being carried forward perhaps by the Learning Hub or by Faculty staff and students

The Team:

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