

ONLINE INTRODUCTIONS

 <p>From our study:</p>	<p>Welcoming students into your subject or class before face-to-face classes begin—especially for first year students—can be a great way for students to feel a part of their class or subject. Giving students a landing page to jump off, and having a video (or similar) introducing the subject and welcoming them to it, can help make the first a little less daunting if they already know who you are, and a little of what to expect from the subject.</p>
 <p>Students say:</p>	<p><i>"I had never done any science in high school and I felt that in the early classes, a lot of the basic information was assumed knowledge. I wish there was an introductory video/ optional class in the first week to introduce us to lab equipment and basic methodology."</i></p> <p><i>"(I felt like I belonged) when teaching staff personally responded to my contributions on a subject discussion board via direct email and regularly engaged in the ongoing online discussion."</i></p>
 <p>Students and Academics Suggest:</p>	<p><u>Curating an online space:</u> Having a starting point for the subject directing students in what they should do before class is a great addition to a subjects UTSONline sites. These pages can include giving essential information (i.e. FAQ about the subject), and anything they can do to ready themselves for the session, as well as contact details and where to go for help.</p> <p><u>Welcome Video:</u> Online resources such as videos, can be very useful in welcoming and engaging students, and providing an early interaction with the teacher from the beginning of session. They can help students to understand the expectations of the subject, as well as providing a friendly face to associate with the subject.</p>

For more information on the "Beginning with Belonging" project, contact Dr Alex Thomson: Alexandra.Thomson@uts.edu.au

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