

GROUP DISCUSSION – SUGGESTED SCHEDULE (Honours degree students)

Aim of the research project

The aim of this group discussion is for me to gain an understanding about how you feel about moving from foundation degree to a degree level course.

Ground Rules

I would like to begin the interview by checking that you are comfortable with the way this group discussion is being conducted.

The session will be recorded on a digital recorder. All the information that is discussed within this group interview will be treated as confidential. Your name, or any other identifying information, will not appear in any research publication. The recordings will be erased on completion of the project. During the project all information will be securely stored in a locked cabinet.

So that we can feel comfortable about sharing our experiences, I would ask that we all respect every ones' points of view and agree that information offered and discussed within this session should not be discussed outside the session.

The information discussed in this session will be used for research purposes only. It will not have any bearing on the outcome of your studies in any way – positive or negative.

You do not have to contribute to the discussion in any way that might cause you anxiety. You can, of course, withdraw from this discussion at any stage, without penalty. At the end of the session, if you would like to discuss in private anything that has been raised during the interview, please let me know.

I would like to start the discussion by asking a few general questions.

What did you enjoy most about your Foundation degree?

What made you decide to do a full degree course?

Has the degree course been similar to the FD?

In which ways do you think it has been different? Examples?

How have you coped with any changes on the degree course? Examples?

What sort of things do you think have helped you to adapt to degree study?

Appendix 6

Do you think you have changed at all during the course? Examples?

Did anyone else you know come to the university with you?

When you first applied for the FD did you know anyone else on the course?

Has doing the degree been a big change?

How have you coped with change in the past?

Would you like to do any further study in future?