Engaging first year students: 
A conceptual organiser for student engagement

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Overview

- Role of student engagement in FYE
- Student engagement TLRI project
- Literature review
- Conceptual organiser
- Evaluated against data from TLRI project
- Revised conceptual organiser
- Discussion - value, issues?
Student engagement

- Co-lead a TLRI project with 9 institutions
  - Literature review
  - Survey of students in first enrolment
  - Student interviews
  - Teacher survey
Student engagement

- Literature review identified four strands
  - Motivation and agency
  - Transactional engagement
  - Institutional support
  - Active citizenship
Student engagement

- Produced a conceptual organiser
  - Strands
  - Indicators for those strands
Student engagement

- Evaluate the organiser against data from 72 student interviews
  - All four strands present
  - Some indicators strongly supported
    - Autonomy, competence (motivation & agency)
    - Transactional engagement
    - Institutional support
    - Active citizenship
  - Some less apparent
    - Relationships with others; work on own
    - Academic challenge, enriching experiences, high expectations of students, diversity valued
Two changes to the organiser

- Separated the transactional engagement strand into two
  - Teachers
  - Students
- Added a non-institutional support strand
Discussion

- Does the organiser offer a useful way of:
  - thinking about student engagement;
  - evaluating actions to engage students?
- Could individual institutions write indicators relevant to their context?
- What is missing?
- What is irrelevant?