



University: Student Planning



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“A quarter of ALL university students are failing to complete their courses.”

Graeme Paton, Education Editor, Telegraph Education News, June 2009

Students Today

As student applications and tuition fees rise and jobs for graduates diminish, student planning to minimise course drop outs is critical to maximising the student environment ‘balance’ achieved by a Higher Education Institution (HEI). Investing in a student’s ‘longevity’ of education will deliver the maximum reward.

Students Tomorrow

In a recent survey, evidence provided by Quocirca confirms that Performance Management solutions are being implemented now more than ever. This is not simply to present a view statistics such as HESA, HEFCE etc., but to project future student intakes in terms of origin, longevity and background, to better ‘shape’ future University curriculums.

With education overseers and parents alike, expecting measurable results in critical metrics (such as dropout and proficiency), education departments need an effective way to track and report on spending and progress.

Performance management can help organisations to connect spending to outcomes to meet stronger than-ever demands for transparency and accountability.

Student Performance: An ever changing information management challenge

With new data growth that is unstructured content increasing by 80%, and companies losing millions (£3.4M) on average, annually, in time wasting reformatting information between applications, organisations must improve their ability to turn that information – especially information generated in real time - into insight to optimise business performance.

Business Information Today

- 1 in 3 Business leaders make major decisions with incomplete information or information they don’t trust.
- 1 in 2 Business leaders don’t have sufficient information from across their organisations to do their jobs.
- 3 in 5 Organisations don’t share critical information with partners and suppliers for mutual benefit.

Performance Management Tomorrow

Moving forward in the ‘changing’ economy, it is the ‘ability’ to respond quickly and to predict and cater for change, which will have the greatest impact in managing seasonal student flow.

To try to manage this process in a spreadsheet based environment is risky and inflexible, whilst also wide open for error.

“Organisations must improve their ability to turn information, into insight to optimise business performance.”

*Source: IBM - The Institute for Business Value study: “Business Analytics and Optimisation for the Intelligent Enterprise,” April 2009.

Driver-based Student Planning

When student planning information is delivered dimensionally, response times to change can be RAPID.

If assumptions change along the way, whether at general level or individual schools or even course level, this can be instantly reflected across the entire student model and can automatically feed revised targets and plans.



"In these challenging economic times, investment returns need clear visibility from the outset. Simpson Associates' Performance Propositions offer a more certain outcome and faster delivery of benefits."

Proven Results

Simpson Associates offer HEIs a flexible option for the management and future planning of student intake and their 'educational' lifecycle in the form of a model-based solution, which puts control and response in the hands of University Planning Teams.

A recent implementation of SAISL Student Planning, at Nottingham University has enabled them to see the immediate impact of a change assumption and scenario comparison. It means the budget units are more self-sufficient and the Strategic Planning Team are spending their time now analysing income streams which can DRIVE future Planning Cycles for 'optimal' student planning and student revenues.

Student Planning Solutions

At Simpsons, our structured approach has allowed us to develop repeatable solutions.

These address specific business areas and processes that we are able to apply to a range of sectors such as Higher Education, Finance, Cash Flow Planning, Customer Rebates, Contract Profitability, etc.

So, for our customers, these propositions shorten the project lifecycle and increase the certainty of outcomes from a performance-based solution.

Contact us

Should you have any questions or require any further information, the team at Simpson Associates will be happy to help you with your request.

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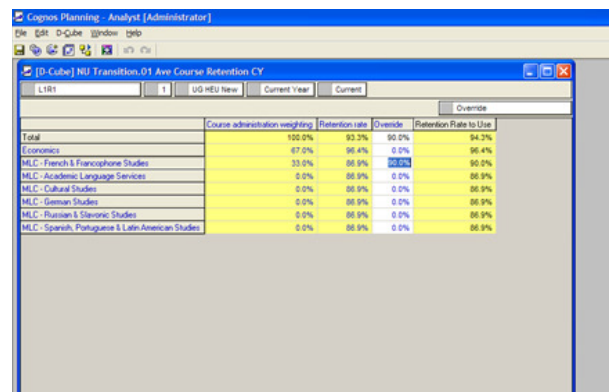


Figure 1: Percentage of retention transitions 2009.

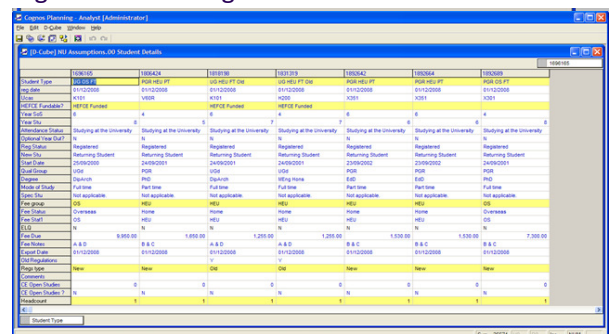


Figure 2: Assumptions 2009.

Figure 3: Planning model assumptions 2009.

...where do you want to go ?

Our University clients:

London South Bank University

Sheffield Hallam University

The University of Cambridge

The University of Derby

The University of Nottingham

The University of Sheffield

Warwick University