



The HELLO Project

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- The Hello Project, since **2014**, is a buddy scheme to help new international students settle into life in Plymouth <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/international/the-hello-project>



- It helps create a welcoming community by matching newly arrived international students with students already studying at the university taken on as student buddy casual workers.

- The Hello Project fosters fun, friendship, and a sense of belonging and is unique to the University of Plymouth. It has supported nearly **2,000** international students and trained over **350** student buddies, and is a successful example of a peer support initiative scheme.



On the Hello Project, new international students get together with their UoP buddies and....

-talk, ask questions, get information, and share ideas approximately/flexibly **10 hours** over **6-8 weeks**. New students can find out about living in Plymouth, and studying at university.

It gives the all the students an opportunity to communicate effectively, improve social skills and make new friends 😊



2019 award-winning UoP Hello Project as a UKCISA funded research project

[2018-19-all-research-FULL REPORT-lr-v2.pdf](#)

Examining the efficacy of a buddy programme for international students' integration, language ability and academic performance (McMahon, Webb and Schaeffe, 2019)

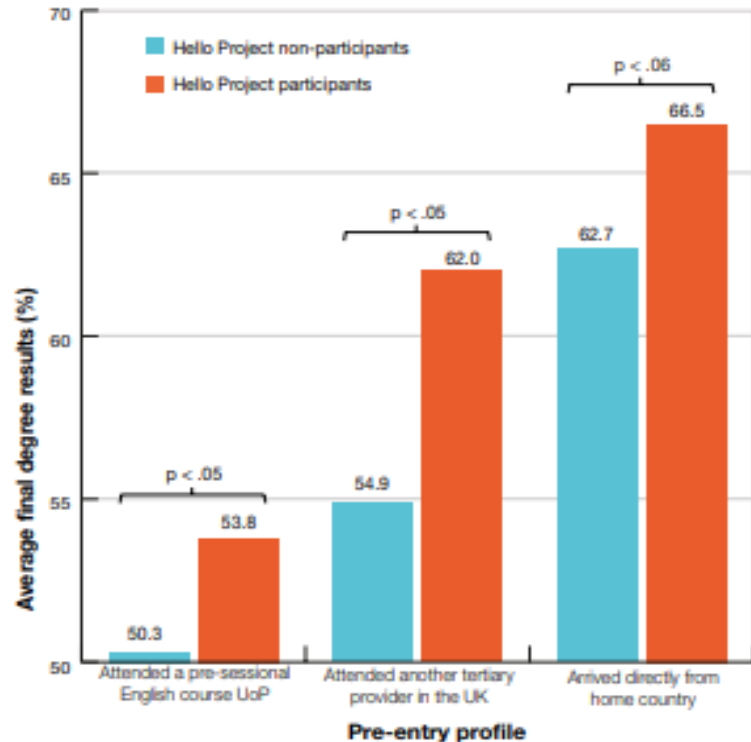
The UKCISA research project article for *Student Experience: student community* highly commended the University of Plymouth's Hello Project for an ** award for Innovation in International Education

The UK Council for International Student Affairs #WeAreInternational Student Charter states that

- host institutions should create a **“welcoming, inclusive, and equitable environment for international students in the UK”** (UKCISA, 2022, 5).
- targeted support should be made available in every area of the student experience, including **“assisting international students to navigate socially and culturally, by proactively facilitating the integration of domestic and international students”** (UKCISA, 2022, 7).



‘Statistical analysis showed a significant association between participation in the Hello Project and higher marks’, though ‘enhancing language skills’ was initial motivation, as was ‘confidence in socialising’(UKISA, 2022)



Watch and listen to students’ experiences of the Hello Project:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0B-Whpm2_Y



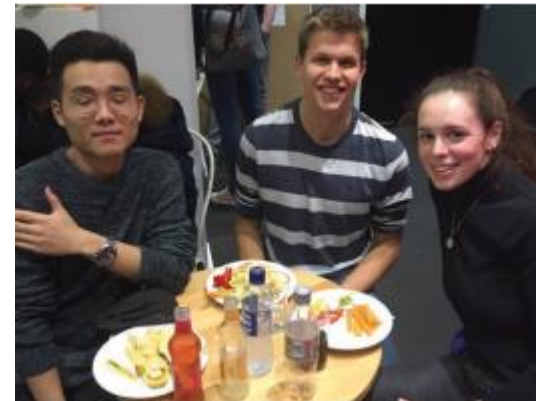
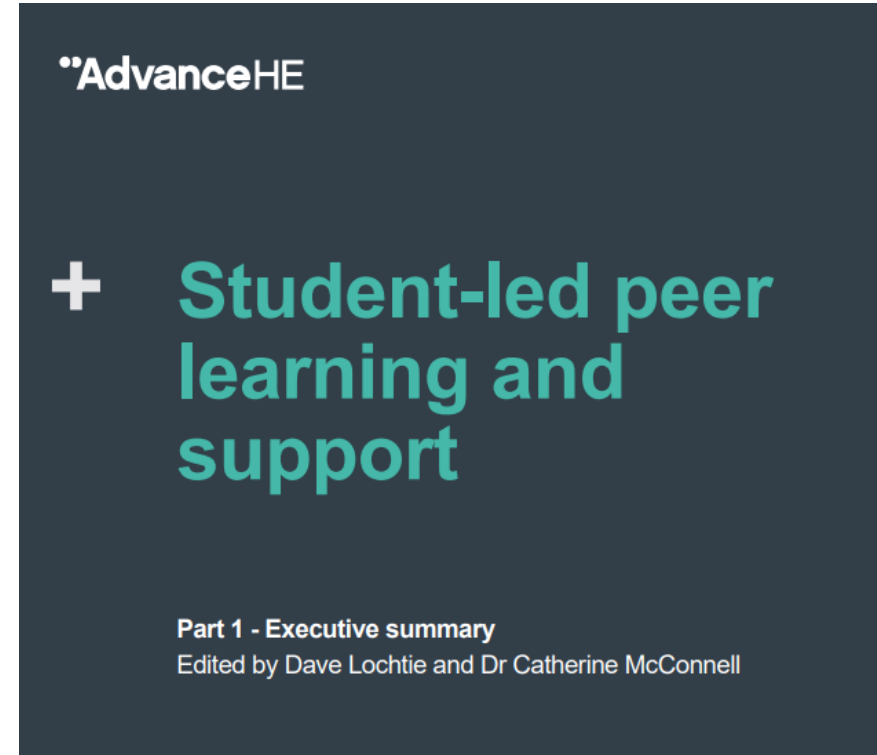
Academic performance in Hello Project participants and nonparticipants, stratified by pre-entry level profile



2024: Hello Project chosen for Advance HE publication

‘The Hello Project: Promoting and nurturing intercultural awareness’

The University of Plymouth
English Language Centre’s
‘Hello Project’ was selected
as a case study for inclusion
in an Advance HE publication 2024
which showcases best practice across
the sector in student-led
peer learning and support.



Impact/feedback



New international students

- *'Through this project I can improve my English level, especially speaking and I can get many local friends.'*
- *'I enjoyed the Hello Project because as an international student I found it very difficult to settle into the UK. My buddy was nice and patient and helped me adjust to life in Plymouth.'*

Buddies

- *'Working on this project has diversified my cultural knowledge of the world.'*
- *'It challenged cultural stereotypes for both groups of students.'*
- *'I found it very rewarding to help someone integrate into life at the university.'*
- *'As a student-oriented initiative, the Hello Project really does transform lives.'*





As a student-oriented initiative, the **collaborative** nature of the Hello Project has proved to be socially and culturally rewarding for both the buddies and the new international students.

The Hello Project provides opportunities for all participants to develop the valuable skills and insights that **contribute** to a more sophisticated understanding of the benefits of making **connections** across a rich and diverse student body.



Thank you 😊



Any questions?

