

Appendix 1: Interview Schedule

Welcome and introduction:

- Thank participant and give a brief introduction to who you are
- Start by restating the ethical information about the study:
 - Purpose of the study
 - Right to withdraw
 - Anonymisation of data and storage
 - Re-affirm consent

Icebreaker:

Ask the participant what they are currently studying and if they have any future goals they are working towards.

Section 1: Image elicitation

As you will be aware from the information you received before the interview, we are interested in understanding your experiences of study at the Open University and specifically the transition from your access module to your current module.

[if student provides an image]

In the information we provided about the study, we asked if you could:

“Share an image of something that your current module offers you wish you had during your access module?”

- Can you explain why you chose this image?

[It is anticipated that this narrative might be further probed with follow up questions]

- Can you tell me more about that?
- In what ways is this different to your access module?
- Why do you think this is useful to you?

[If the student does not supply an image]

- Is there anything about your current module you wish had been provided during your access module?

[It is anticipated that this narrative might be further probed with follow up questions]

- Can you tell me more about that?
- In what ways is this different to your access module?
- Why do you think this is useful to you?

Section 2: Study Skills

On your module you will have developed knowledge of a subject area but also study skills. What we are interested in is discussing these skills. Some might include academic writing, planning, reading and referencing among other things. We are going to discuss these in the next few questions:

1. What Study skills did you develop on your Access module that have been most useful on your current module?
2. Have there been any study skills that you feel you had not developed during your Access module that you have needed on your current module?
3. What have you found different about academic writing and reading on your current module compared to your access module?
4. Have you found differences in your note taking on your current module compared to the access module?

5. Can you tell us about your experiences of referencing in your current module compared to during your access module?

Section 3: Quality of Support

You may have realised that support at the Open University comes from a number of places. Obviously, you have your tutor as a primary contact but there are also the student support teams and specialists who you might have had contact with. You may also have gained support from your peers on the various study forums. These questions are focused on interactions with all those people:

1. What has been your experience of tutor support on your current module and how does this compare to your Access module?
2. Can you tell us about your experiences of any interactions with the student support teams?
3. Did you find the quality of peer interaction on forums and tutorials during your current module the same or different as Access?
4. Can you tell us about your experience of working with other students on forums on your current module and how has this compared to during your access module?
[further prompt: If they mention not using forums, ask why?]
5. Can you tell us about your experience of support specific to your [insert specific neurodiversity]? Is there any difference between the support offered on your access module and current module?
6. What in your view, are some of the key things that Access can include to improve of support for students moving to level 1 modules?

Closing:

Is there anything else about your transition you would like to tell us?

[Thank them for their time and explain what will happen next and what the data will be used for. Remind them of the support services on offer if necessary]