



Recruitment, Retention and Progression of Geomatics Students

Tom Bramald
Development Officer

School of Civil Engineering
and Geosciences



Overview

- The state we're in
 - Fewer people, fewer courses
 - The Newcastle Situation
- Define the student lifecycle
 - The three stages
- Approaches taken by Newcastle University geomatics group at each stage

Fewer People; Newcastle Situation

- European and International commentary about low numbers studying geomatics
- UK is no different
- Newcastle University
 - Research
 - Geodesy, Geomatic Engineering, Applied
 - Teaching
 - 2.5 Undergraduate Programmes (≈35-40 students)
 - High level of "service teaching"
 - Outreach, consultancy, etc.

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10 years work

- Wide range of work
- Classify as one of the following:
 - Recruitment
 - Retention
 - Progression
 - Raise awareness
 - Generate applications
 - Successful applications after registration
 - Employment
 - Further Study
 - Travelling

Recruitment

- University-led activities
- Geomatics specific activities
 - Workshops (1hr or 1 day)
 - Fieldwork
 - Google Earth
 - GIS
 - geomatics.org.uk (2000 – 2006)
 - Online information
 - Free loans of equipment to schools
 - CPD for teachers (2008 -)
 - Four courses, one day each
 - Geography; Maths; Physics; Construction

CPD for Teachers

- Introduction to geomatics
- Outdoor, practical exercise (GPS and Levelling)
- How to use geomatics more than once in your teaching
- Discussion session
- Free loans of equipment
- **VERY** positive feedback from school staff
- Based on two big pushes in UK secondary education
 - The outdoor classroom
 - GIS

Retention (1 of 2)

- Essential to keep the students we do get
- Induction
 - Residential Induction Course
 - Industrial Evening
- Teaching
 - Student voting systems (“clickers”)
 - Increasing fieldwork and practical work
 - Study Tour
 - Geomatics laboratory

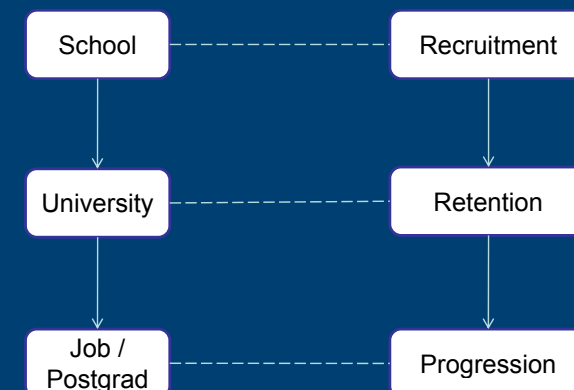
Retention (2 of 2)

- Pastoral Care and Communications
 - Formal structures
 - Confidential focus groups
 - Buddy system
- Staffing
 - A close relationship with our staff
 - Open Door

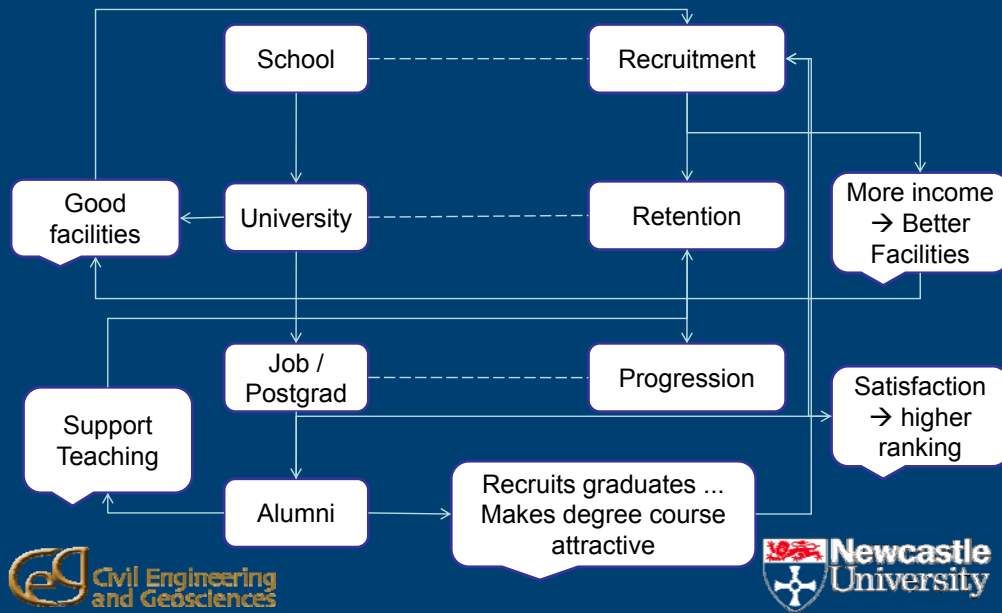
Progression

- Industrial Evening in induction week
- Visits by employers
- Online jobs board
- CV and application advice
- Encouragement
- Strong links with alumni
- + the university careers service!

The Process ... but not a lifecycle



Virtuous Links and Complex Feedback



Is it working?

- We make our quota of 35 students
- High levels of satisfaction amongst students
- We are the only UK undergraduate geomatics courses accredited by the RICS
- We have a very high rate of successful progression

- But we must keep working!
 - Current project: Maths

