




# Ask the Family?

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FAMILIES ASK

 Families with limited or no family experience of higher education will often find the terminology used within higher education off putting. They will often have a host of questions that they want to ask about higher education, but may feel their questions are silly.



One way of getting families to discuss issues is to provide them with a list of questions 'other families' have already asked. You can then see if they can try and find the answers in a group – or provide answers on separate cards and get them to match up questions with answers.



Depending on time and context you can use all or a selection of these group activities

### Activity A – Ask the student

1. On a post it ask each person to write down a question that you think a family might ask about higher education – we suggest you focus on what things mean e.g. what is a seminar?
2. Swap your post its with another pair and when they have completed Activity C they can try to answer post it questions.
3. Use the post its as a question box – with everyone in the group discussing their answers with their neighbour or the whole group.

### Activity B – Who are you?

Introductions by one person asking the person on your right – 'Who are you?' they answer 'my name is ...' they then ask person on their right 'Who are you?' the second person says 'my name is ... and I am sitting next to ...'. Repeat with each new person introducing those who have already answered the question 'Who are you?' The final person says 'Who are we? We are ...' and then names each person. This activity works better with small groups but is a good way of getting to know people.

### Activity C – Answering family questions

Use the question sheet that includes some questions families have asked. Try to answer questions; ideally, each pair or group of three should either answer or start with different questions and then share back with the whole group. Instead of the question sheet you can put each question on a separate card.



# Answering family questions

**PAIR 1** 😊😊

When should you start applying to university / higher education?

**PAIR 2** 😊😊

I never did well at school, how can I help support my child?

**PAIR 3** 😊😊

I don't have a bank account, how will I be able to get a loan?

**PAIR 4** 😊😊

My child doesn't drink alcohol, will they be able to fit in – everything seems to be focused on a drink culture.

**PAIR 5** 😊😊

What happens if my child has an accident, will someone tell me?