CDI Conference
Theme 1: Informing and inspiring your practice

The ASPIRE Curriculum in Higher Education

Fiona Gibson & Alexander MacDonald
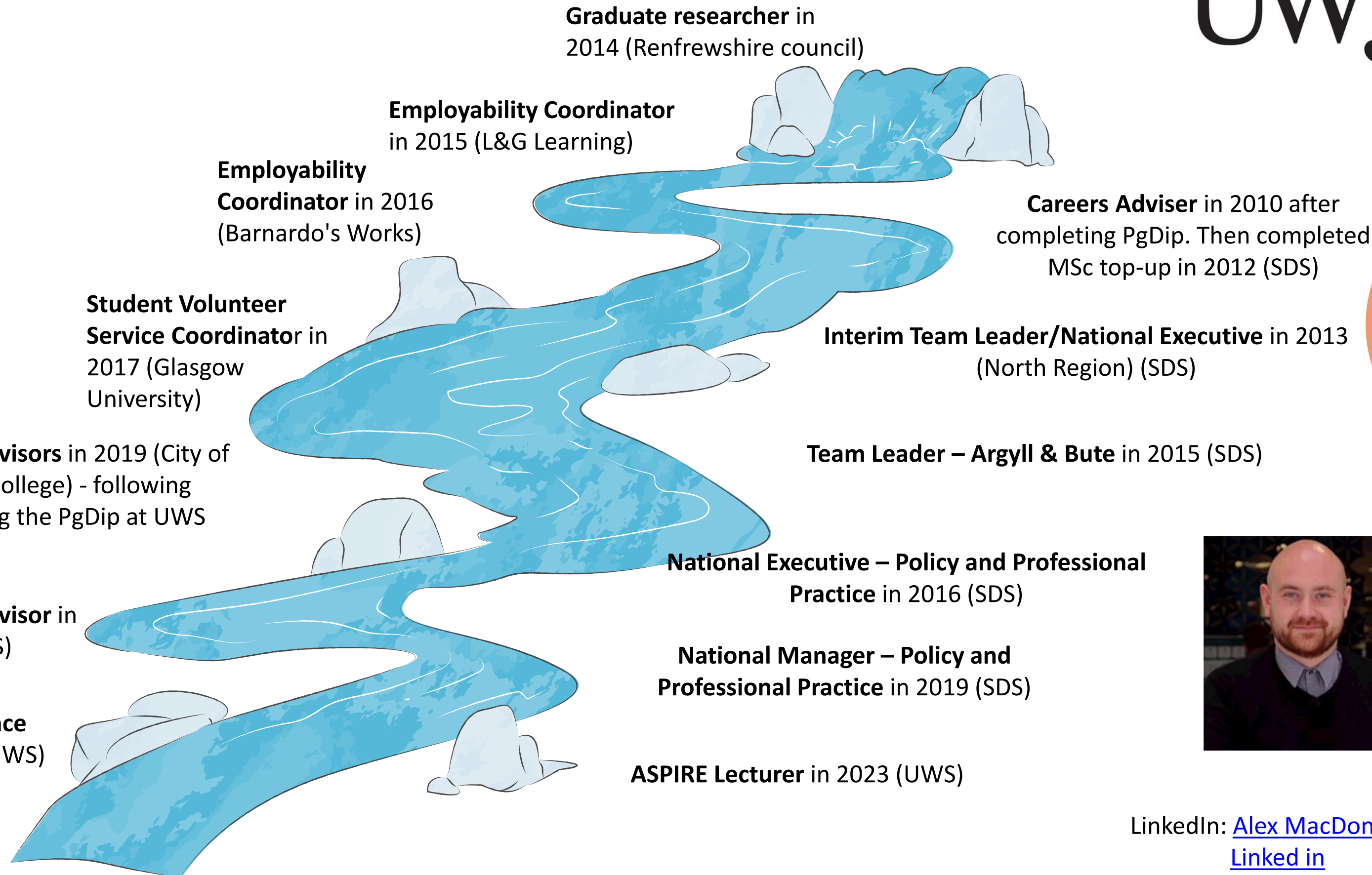March 2024

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Overview of session

- Our career histories
- Policy landscape for ASPIRE
- What is an APPD curriculum?
- Why are UWS invested in the ASPIRE module?
- How do we delivery ASPIRE?
- Group discussion activity
- Time for questions

Our career histories

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Graduate researcher in 2014 (Renfrewshire council)

Employability Coordinator in 2015 (L&G Learning)

Employability Coordinator in 2016 (Barnardo's Works)

Careers Adviser in 2010 after completing PgDip. Then completed MSc top-up in 2012 (SDS)

Student Volunteer Service Coordinator in 2017 (Glasgow University)

Interim Team Leader/National Executive in 2013 (North Region) (SDS)

LinkedIn: Fiona Gibson-Green | LinkedIn

Career Advisors in 2019 (City of Glasgow College) - following completing the PgDip at UWS

Team Leader – Argyll & Bute in 2015 (SDS)

National Executive – Policy and Professional Practice in 2016 (SDS)

Career Advisor in 2019 (SDS)

National Manager – Policy and Professional Practice in 2019 (SDS)

Education Guidance Advisor – 2022 (UWS)

ASPIRE Lecturer in 2013 (UWS)

ASPIRE Lecturer in 2023 (UWS)

LinkedIn: Alex MacDonald | Linked in

Policy to Delivery – Setting the Scene

Before we discuss the policies that influence our work, we want you to think about factors that influence policy more widely...

Activity:

Do a quick "PEST analysis"... **Political, Economic, Societal & Technological...**

Using the instant message box, type drivers or influencers that could fall under one or more of the PEST themes...
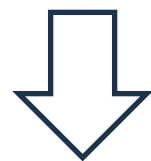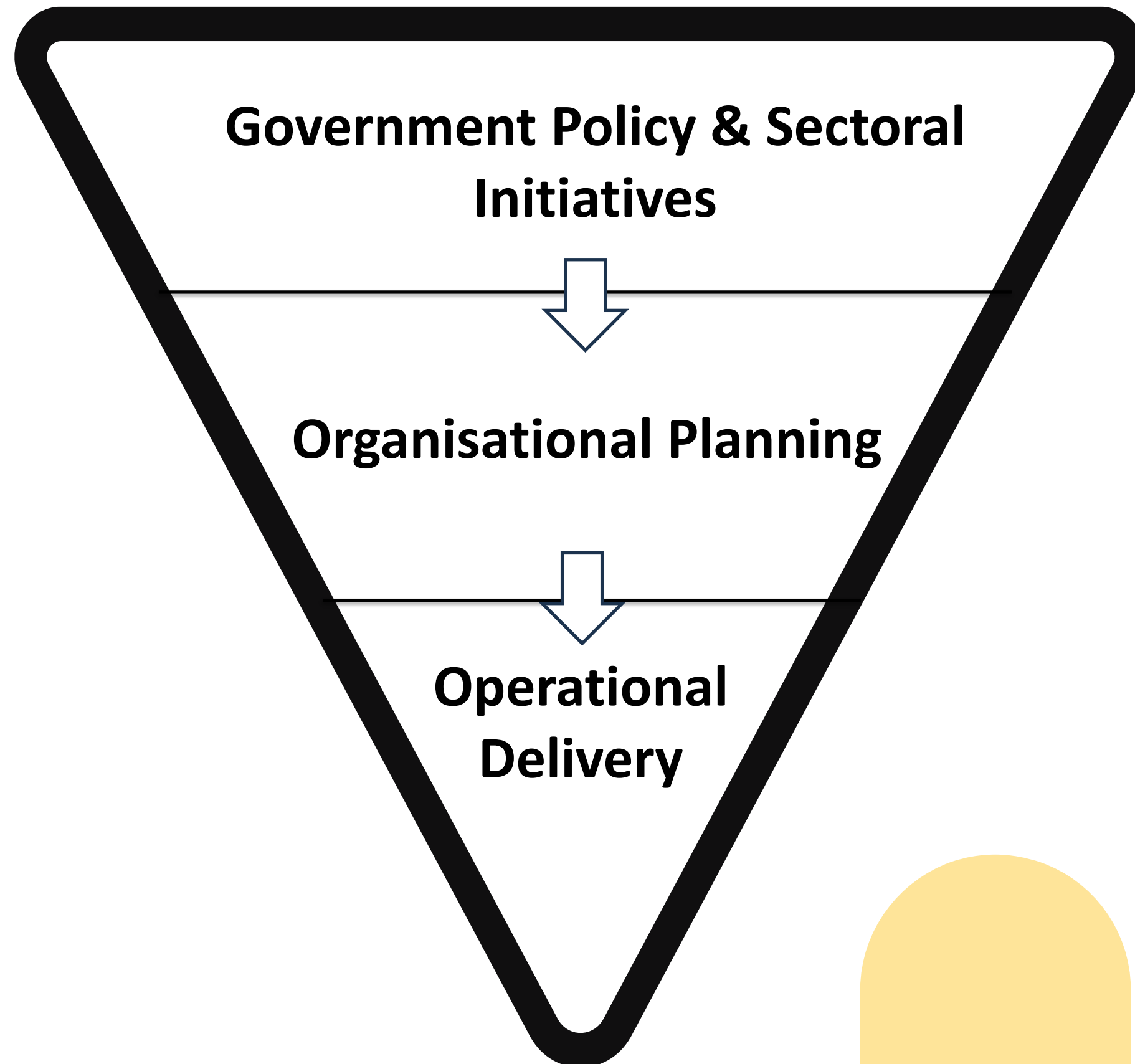
The ASPIRE Module at UWS – Policy to Delivery

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Secondary Education E.g.

Curriculum for Excellence

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School Delivery and Improvement Plans

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Curriculum and class delivery

Government Policy & Sectoral Initiatives
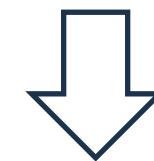
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Organisational Planning

⬇

Operational Delivery

Higher Education E.g.

Quality Assurance Agency (for HE) Enhancement Themes

⬇

UWS Strategy, Curriculum Framework and Graduate Attributes

⬇

Academic, Personal and Professional Development (APPD) i.e. ASPIRE

What is Academic, Personal and Professional Development?

❑ All universities understand the importance of students developing their academic, personal and professional skills within their degree programmes

 ❑ There are numerous models of delivery that vary across the sector, meaning students access this sort of support in many ways e.g. optional module designed by a services team like the Career Service

 ❑ Some universities will have an optional module that is coordinated by a team

 ❑ Others may have teams who support academic staff to ensure their curriculum aligns with APPD

 ❑ UWS decided in 2022 it would implement ASPIRE which is an institution wide APPD module for undergraduate students

Why is Academic, Personal and Professional Development important?
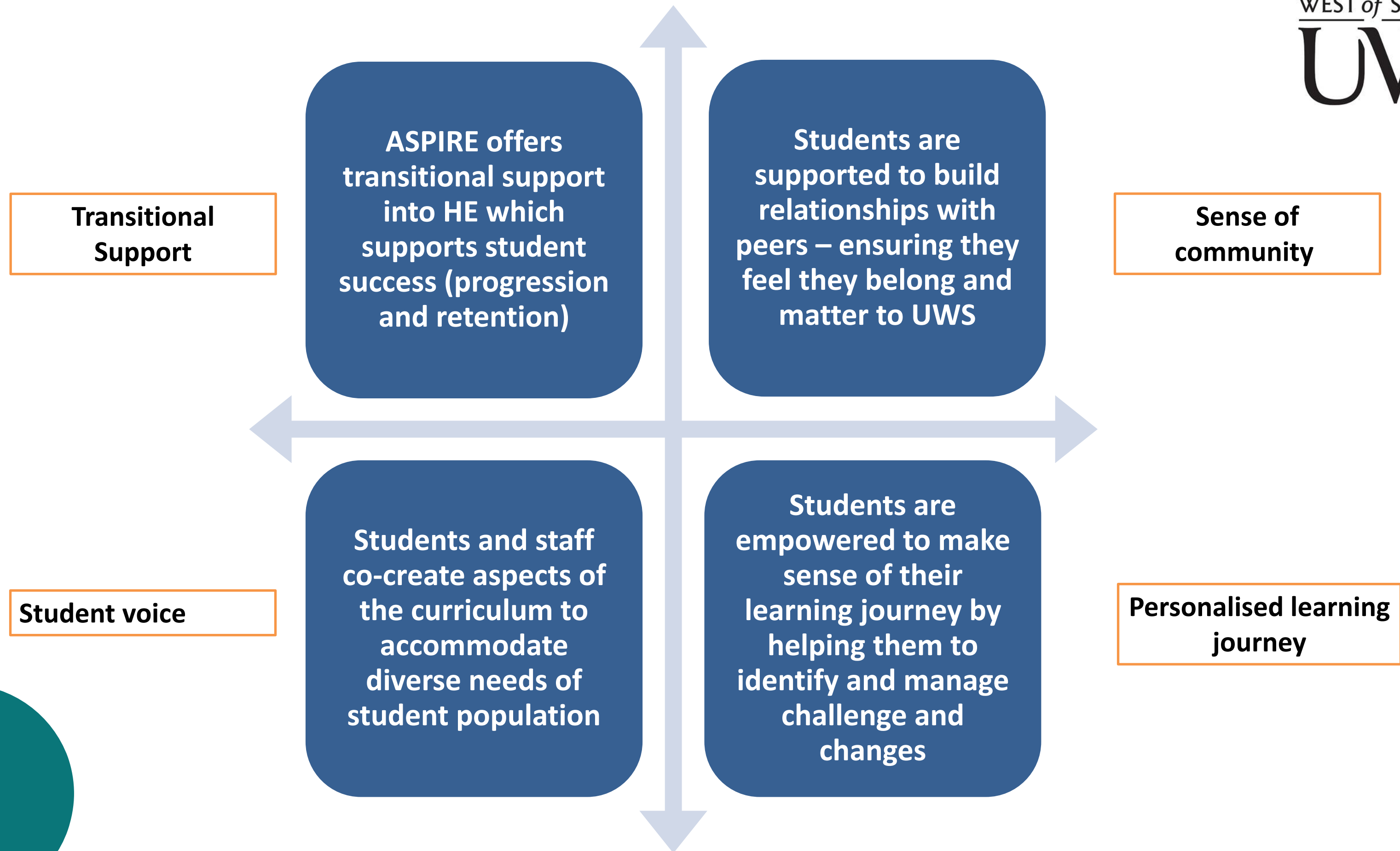
Activity:

Think back to when you were doing your undergraduate degree or a similar learning experience (e.g. starting CGD or college).
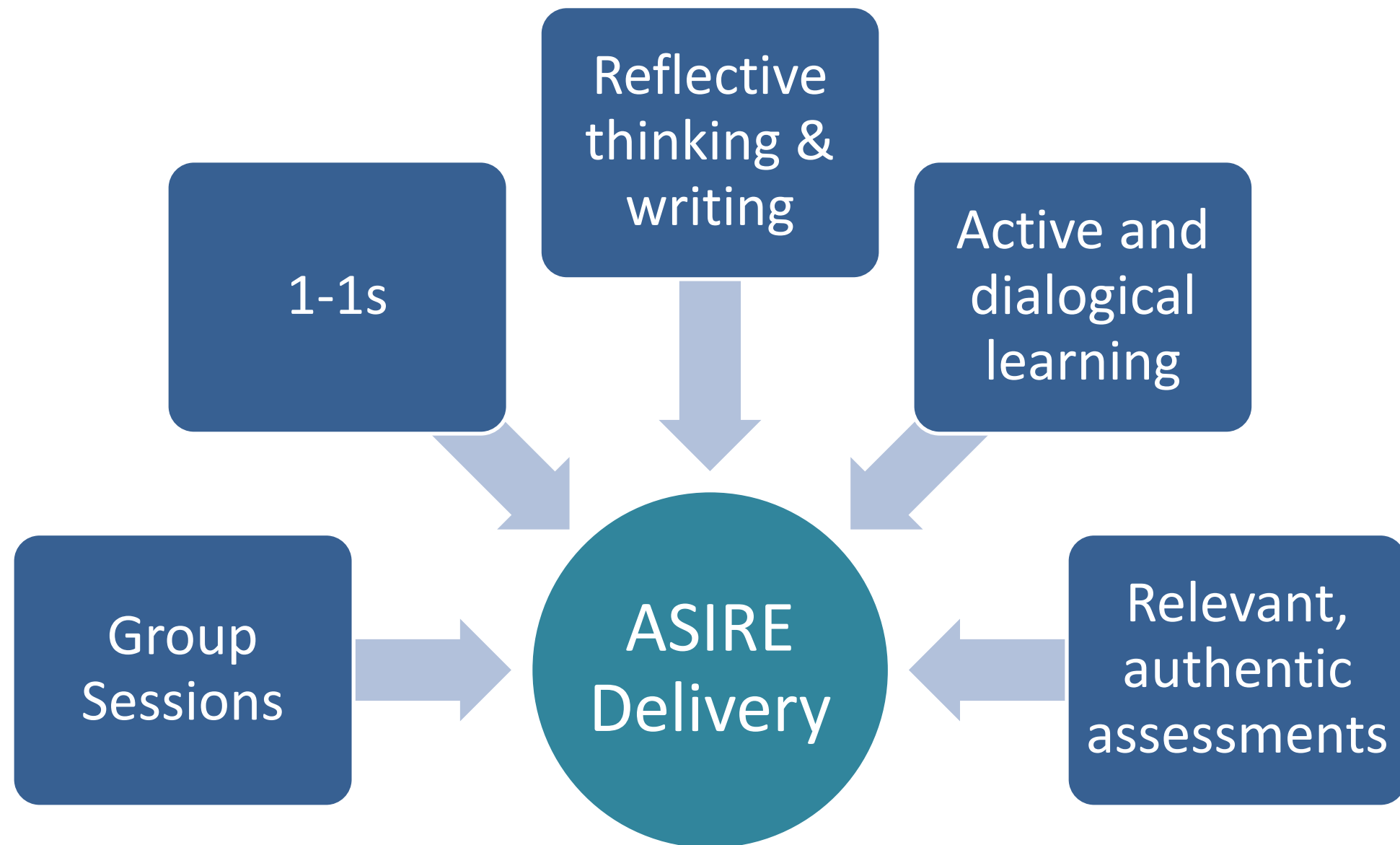
What were some of things you probably needed help with when you started? Type these into the chat function, feel free to come off mute or send in a funny meme/GIF

Hint: The words Academic (e.g. referencing), Personal (self-awareness) and Professional (networking) might help…
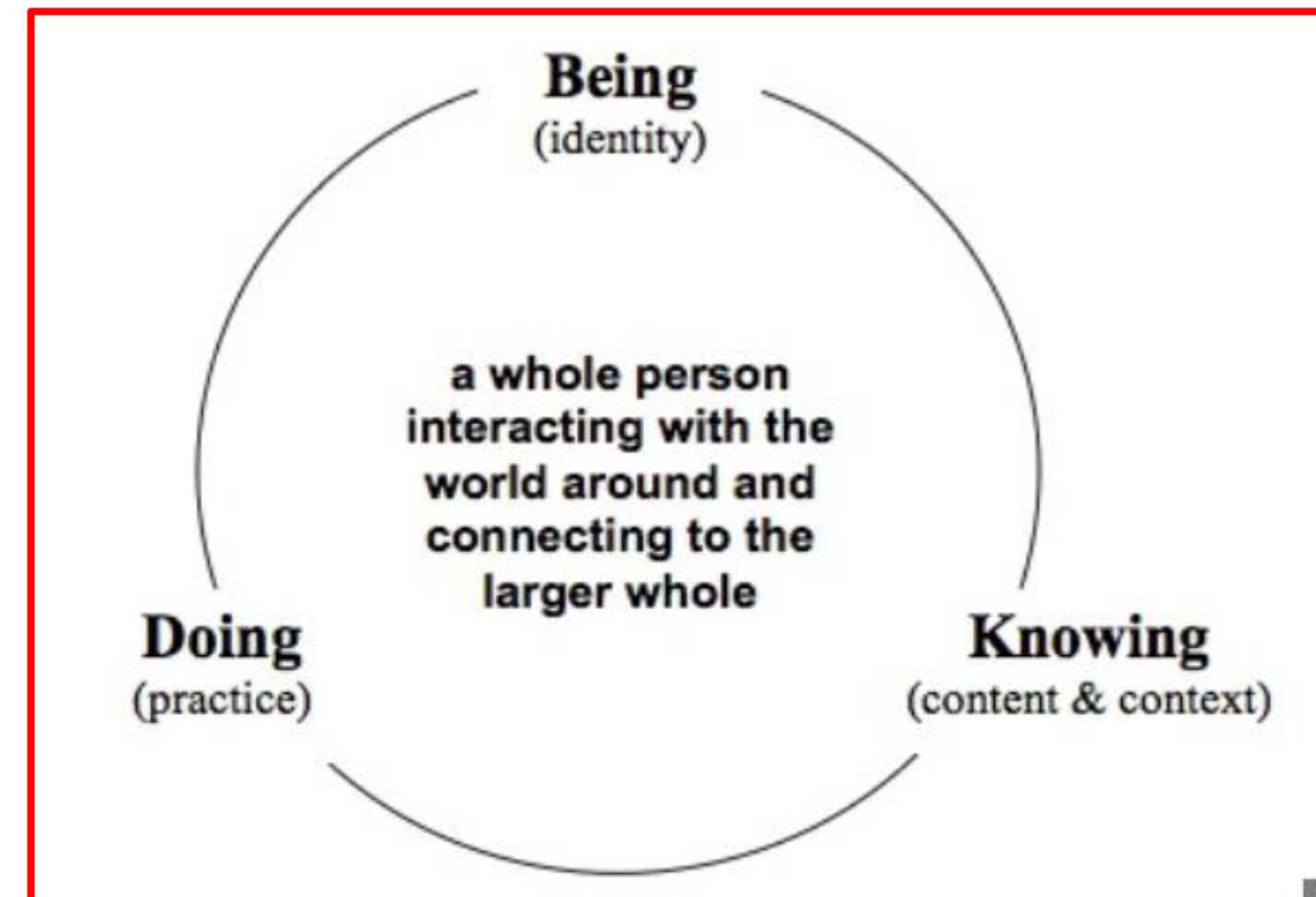
Why are UWS invested in APPD/ASPIRE?

Transitional Support

Sense of community

Student voice

Personalised learning journey

ASPIRE offers transitional support into HE which supports student success (progression and retention)

Students are supported to build relationships with peers – ensuring they feel they belong and matter to UWS

Students and staff co-create aspects of the curriculum to accommodate diverse needs of student population

Students are empowered to make sense of their learning journey by helping them to identify and manage challenge and changes

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How do we deliver ASPIRE at UWS?

Relating APPD to Career Development Theory

Open Discussion:

Reflecting on your own journey as a student

- How might the DOTS model support the design and delivery of an APPD module like ASPIRE?

- Any examples of what helped you to learn best in these areas?

Further reading

Brick, J., Wilson, N., Wong, D. and Herke, M. (2018) Academic Success: a student's guide to studying at university. Macmillan Study Skills. London: Red Globe Press.

Cottrell, S. (2017) *Critical Thinking Skills: Effective Analysis, Argument and Reflection*. MacMillan Study Skills. 3rd edn. London: Red Globe Press.
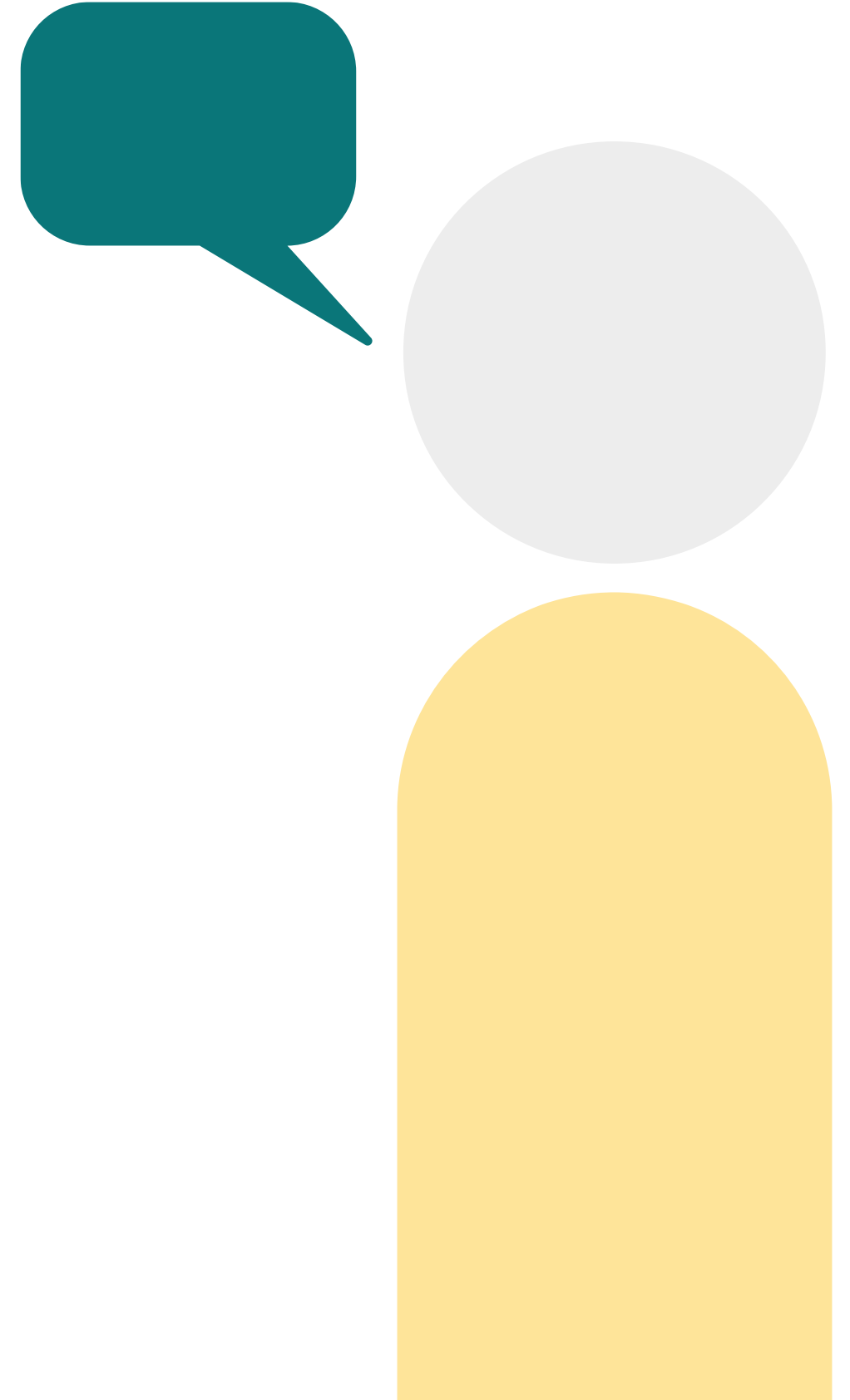
Gibbs, G. (1988). *Learning by doing: A guide to teaching and learning methods*. Oxford Polytechnic.

Hughes, G. (2020) *Be Well, Learn Well: improve your wellbeing and academic performance*. Macmillan Study Skills. London: Red Globe Press

McIntosh, E. and Barden, M. (2019) The LEAP (Learning Excellence Achievement Pathway framework: A model for student learning development in higher education. *Journal of Learning Development in Higher Education*, (14) Doi: https://doi.org/10.47408/jldhe.v0i14.466

NICEC (no date) *New DOTS: Career Learning for the Contemporary World*. Available at: nicec briefing-DOTS use! (hihohiho.com)

Feedback

Thank you and questions