



**SOL PLAATJE
UNIVERSITY**

Siyaphumelela Conference
8-11 July 2025
Network Partner Sharing

**Data-driven Student Support Ecosystem
and Transition Framework Integration**

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Siyaphumelela
we succeed



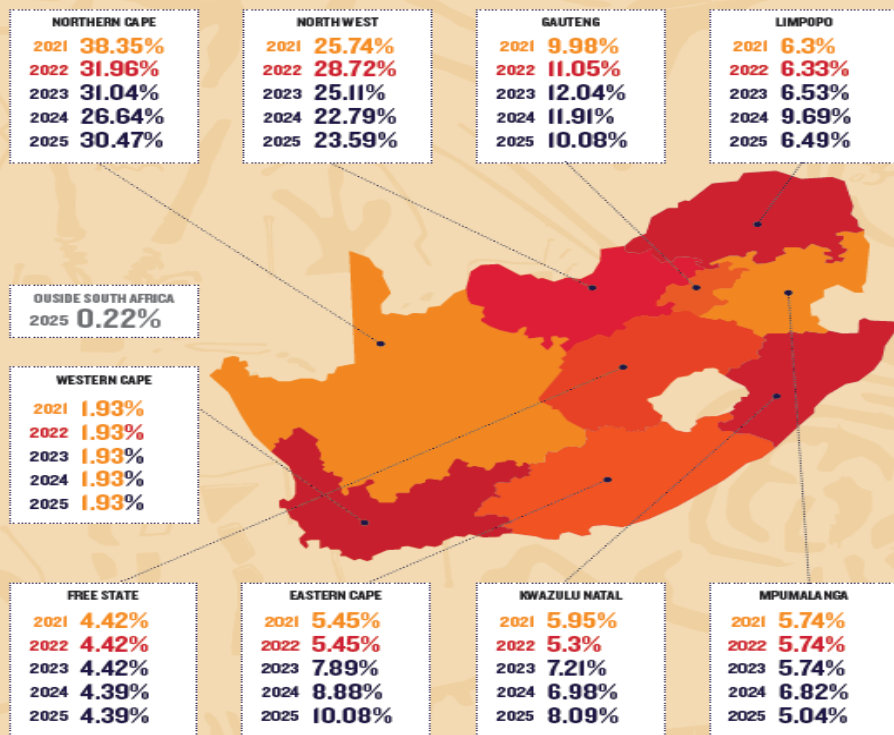
Outline

- **Background & Introduction**
- **Student Support Framework**
- **Student Support Programmes**
 - Psychosocial Support
 - Academic Support
- **Key Student Support Data**
- **Student Support Data Collection Apps & Analysis**
- **Student Profile**
- **Data Analytics Structure**
- **Student Support Ecosystem**

Background & Introduction

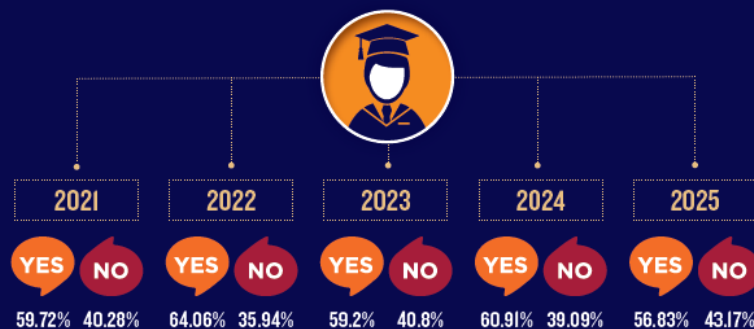
Distribution of Students across South Africa & outside South Africa

The students are mostly from the Northern Cape for five consecutive years, followed by the North West. On the other hand, the University has been increasing its footprint across the country with steady increases from Gauteng Province from 9.9% in 2021 to 10.8% in 2025, Eastern Cape from 5% in 2021 to 10.08% in 2025 and KwaZulu Natal at 5.95% in 2021 to 8.09% in 2025.



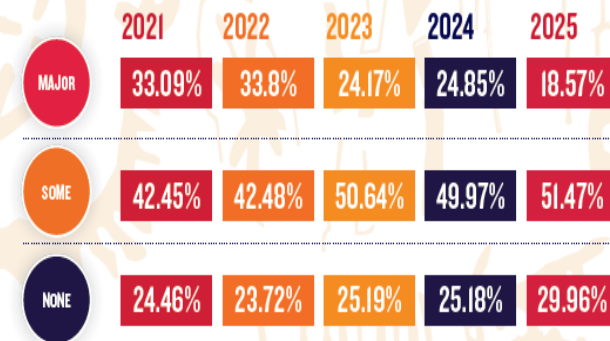
First generation student

It is interesting to see that the number of first-generation students is decreasing slightly at SPU. The students joining the university are at least (43.17%) not first-generation students to enter higher education in 2025. The number is improving from 40.28% in 2021, where 59.72% of students were first-generation, compared to 56.83% in 2025. As many students have indicated, they are from the Northern Cape, demonstrating that the university provides access to the communities and households. We will also observe later in the report that former/current students are recommending the institution to others.



Funding concerns

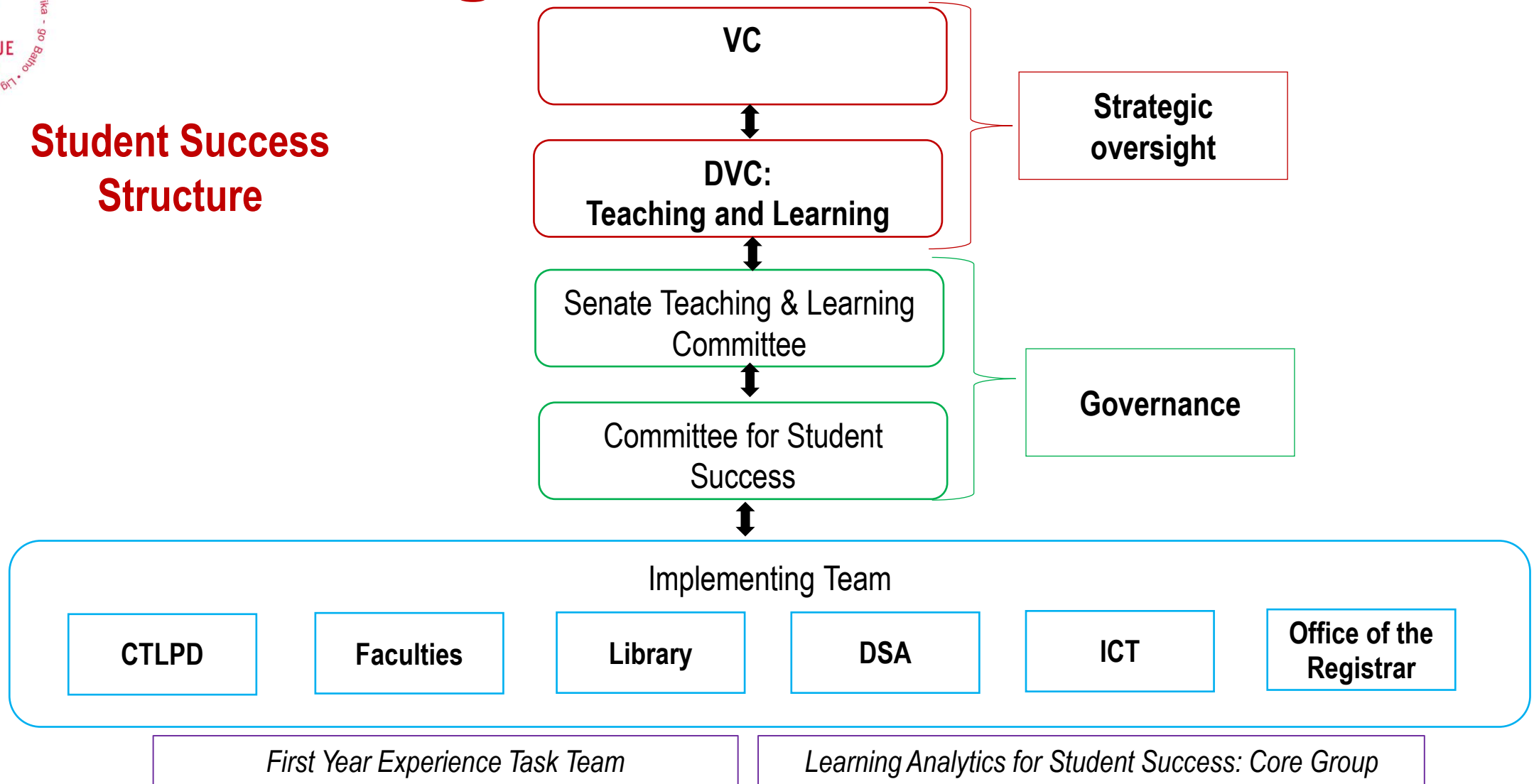
The students' concerns over funding have been decreasing since 2023, specifically major concerns over funding. From 2021 to 2022, about 42.5% of the participants indicated concerns about funding, and just over 33% indicated major concerns about funding. We also observed that the number of students who reported no concerns over funding has been growing, from 24.46% in 2021 to 29.96% in 2025.



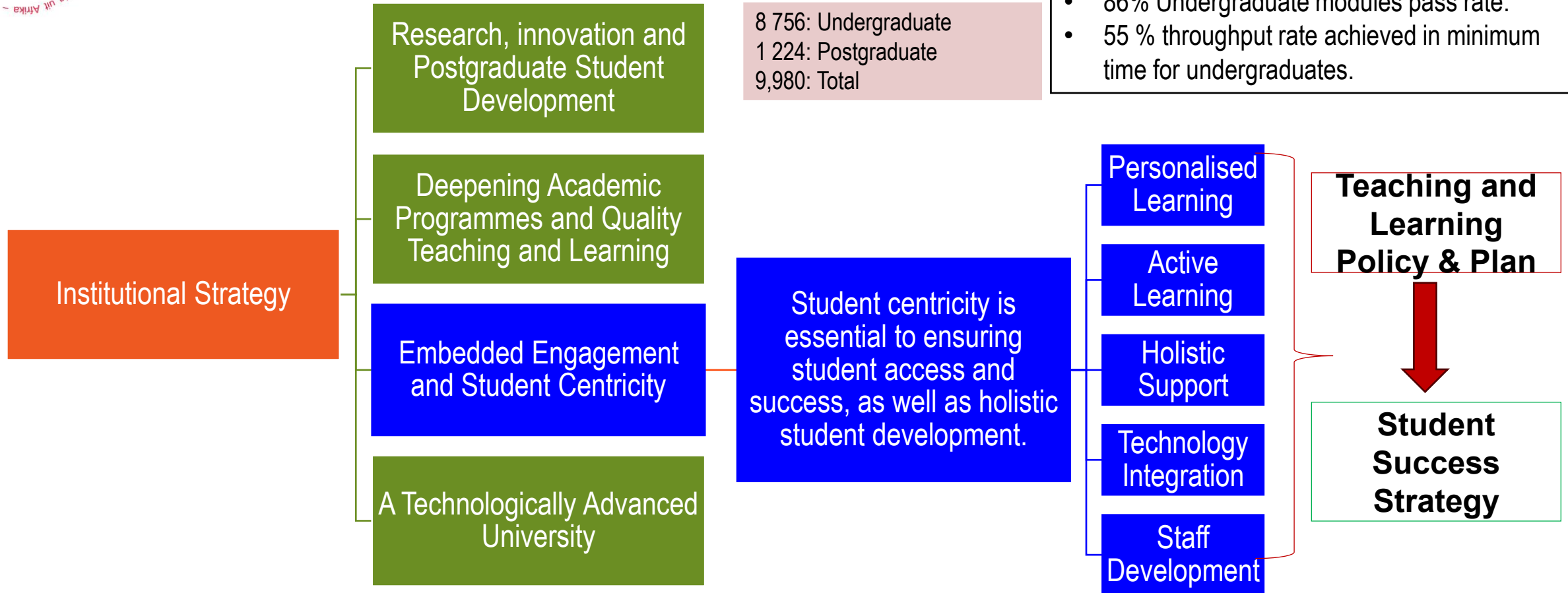
2023	N	N+1	N+2
Throughput rate	50.7%	15.54%	2.19%
Retention (2017-2024)	95.3% - 97.7%		
Module Pass rate	85%		

Background & Introduction

Student Success Structure



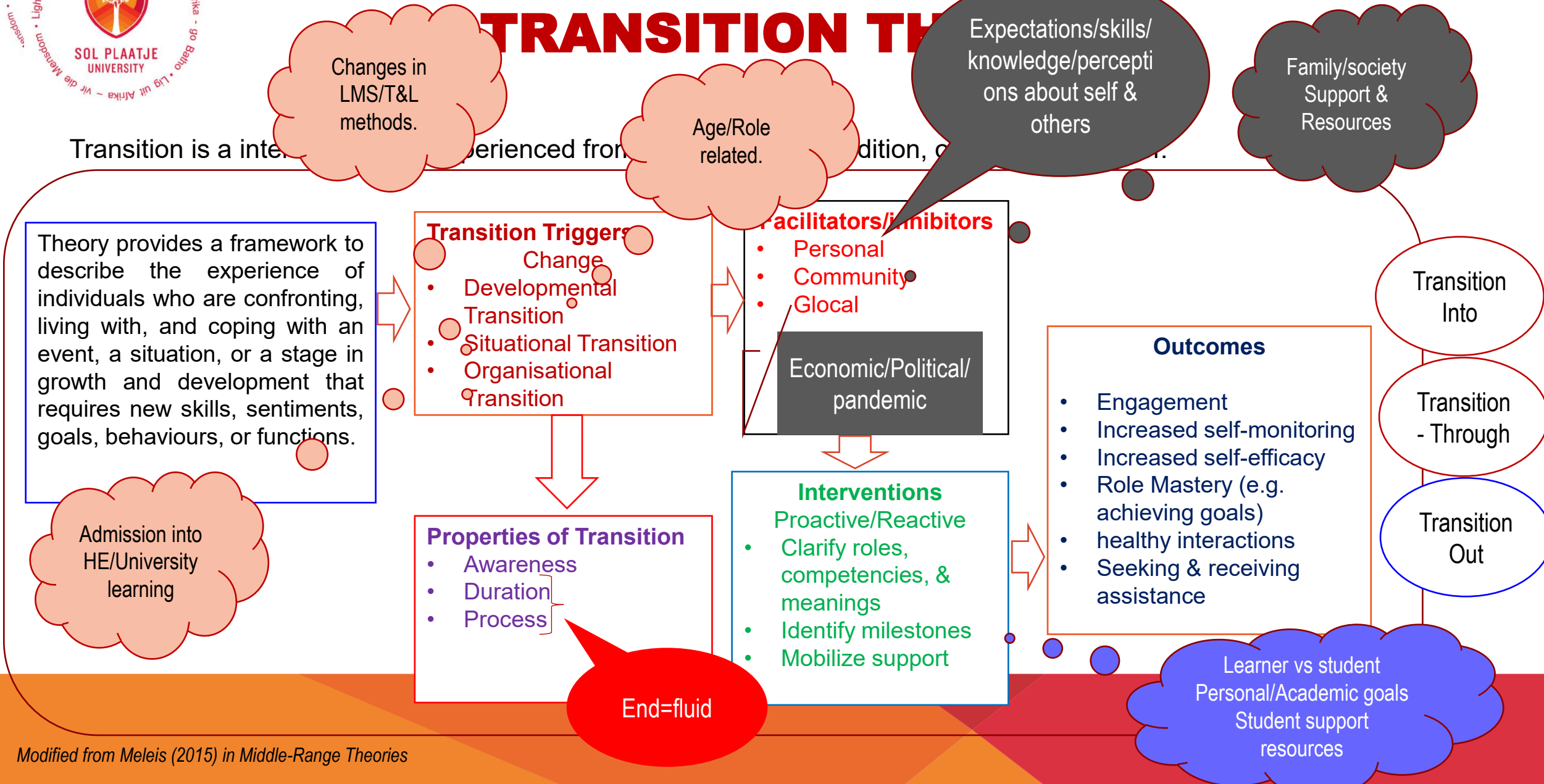
Background & Introduction



2030
8 756: Undergraduate
1 224: Postgraduate
9,980: Total

- Targets:**
- 86% Undergraduate modules pass rate.
 - 55 % throughput rate achieved in minimum time for undergraduates.

STUDENT SUPPORT FRAMEWORK: TRANSITION THEORY



Student Support Programmes

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Student Life & Development Unit

- Student governance
- Student development
- Career services
- Arts and culture.

Student Health & Wellness

- Counselling
- Medical care
- Nutrition Programme

Campus Housing & Accommodation

- On and off-campus accredited accommodation
- Living and learning spaces

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Core Curriculum

Compulsory:

- Academic Literacy
- Information Literacy
- Digital Literacy

Academic Orientation

Group sessions:

- Digital Literacy
- Learning styles
- Intro. Support Resources

Academic Advising

Peer Academic Advising:

- Study Strategies
- Academic plan & Progress review
- Collaborative learning

Tutorship/SI

Module & Student-focused

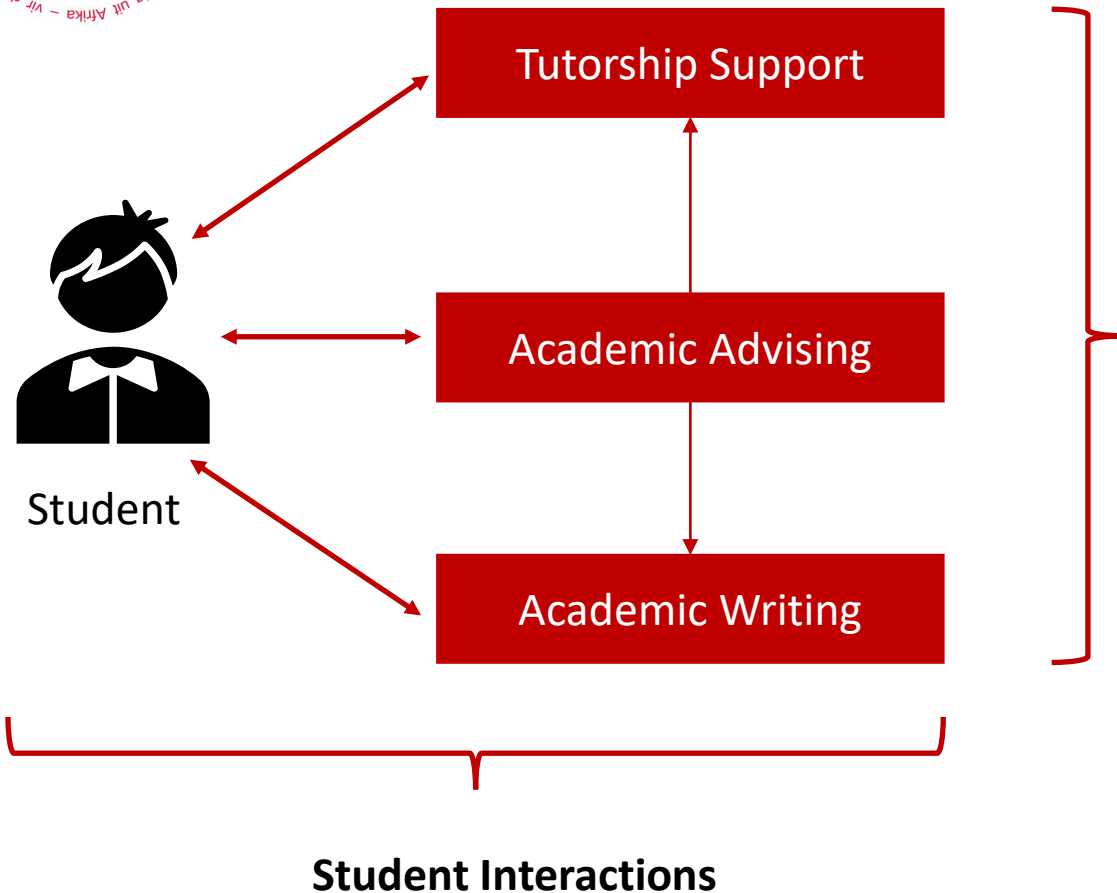
- Context-specific
- Flexible schedule
- Engage & terminate

Academic Writing

Assignment- Planning/Draft/editing

- Group consultations
- Reading & Writing clubs
- Workshops/retreats

Key Student Support Data (SSD)



Student Support Data

1. Access
 - Who uses the support? How often? When?
2. Engagement
 - What happens during the support interaction?
3. Impact
 - What difference does it make?

SSD – High Level Data Breakdown

Access

Who uses the support?
How often? When?

- Student demographics
- Interaction date and time

Engagement

What happens during interactions?

- Interaction method and type
- Topics discussed

Impact

What difference does it make?

- Student feedback and satisfaction
- Academic outcomes

Student Support Data Collection Apps

In-house Data Collection Applications

KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid) method is used in data collection application development

Class Attendance Portal
Sol Plaatje University

Class Attendance Submission

* Required

Role *
Tutorship Support Coordinator

Capturer ID *
[Text Field]

Class Method *
Online

Class Date *
2025-06-23

Start Time *
00 : 00

End Time *
00 : 00

Module Code *
NADF511

Upload Attendance Register * ⓘ
Browse... No file selected

☐ View Attendance

Submit Attendance

CENTRE FOR TEACHING, LEARNING AND PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

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SOL PLAATJE UNIVERSITY

Academic Advisor Session Form

* Required

Date Entry Week:
[Text Field]

Session Date *
2025-07-08

Session Method *
Online

Session Duration *
1-15 mins

Session Type *
Individual Consultation

Students Number *
[Text Field]

Week Topics Covered/ discussed *
[Text Field]

Advisor Notes:
[Text Field]

Save form **Reset form** **Print form**

Academic Advising

CENTRE FOR TEACHING, LEARNING AND PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

SOL PLAATJE UNIVERSITY

Academic Writing Session Form

* Required

Date Entry Week:
[Text Field]

Session Date *
2025-07-08

Session Method *
Online

Session Duration *
1-15 mins

Session Type *
Individual Consultation

Students Number *
[Text Field]

Week Topics Covered/ discussed *
[Text Field]

Academic Writing Session *
[Text Field]

Tutorship Type *
[Text Field]

Advisor Notes:
[Text Field]

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Academic Writing

Capture student support data to inform evidence-based interventions for student success

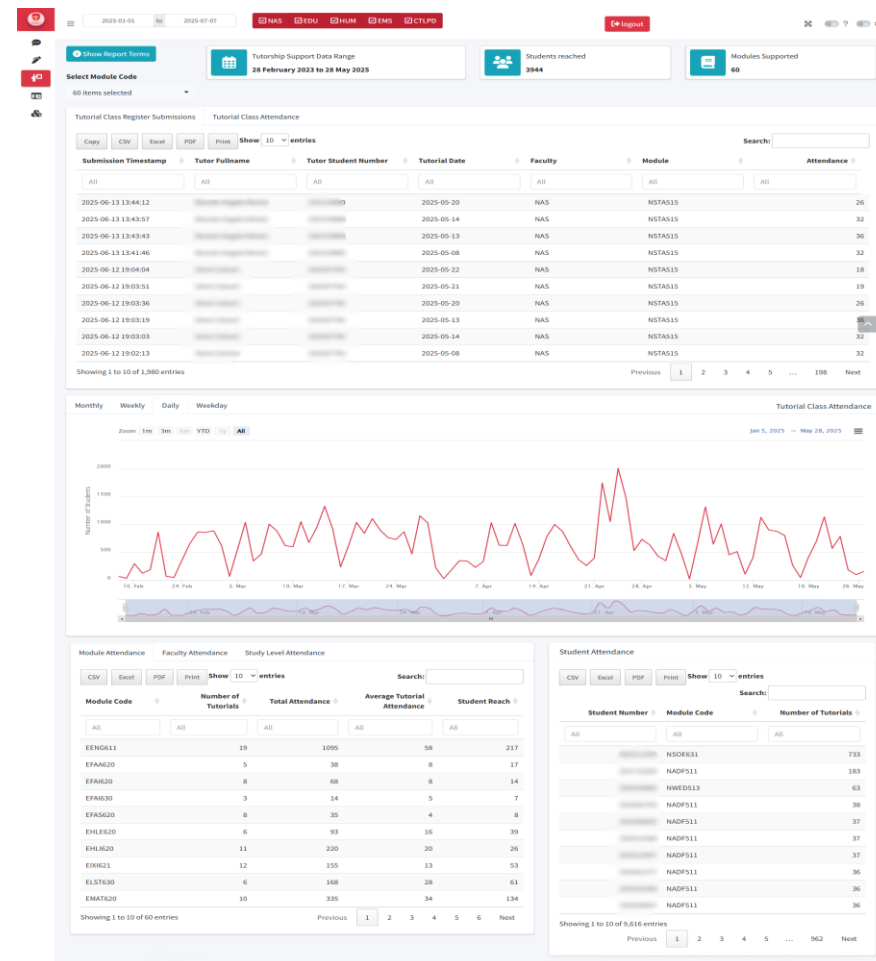
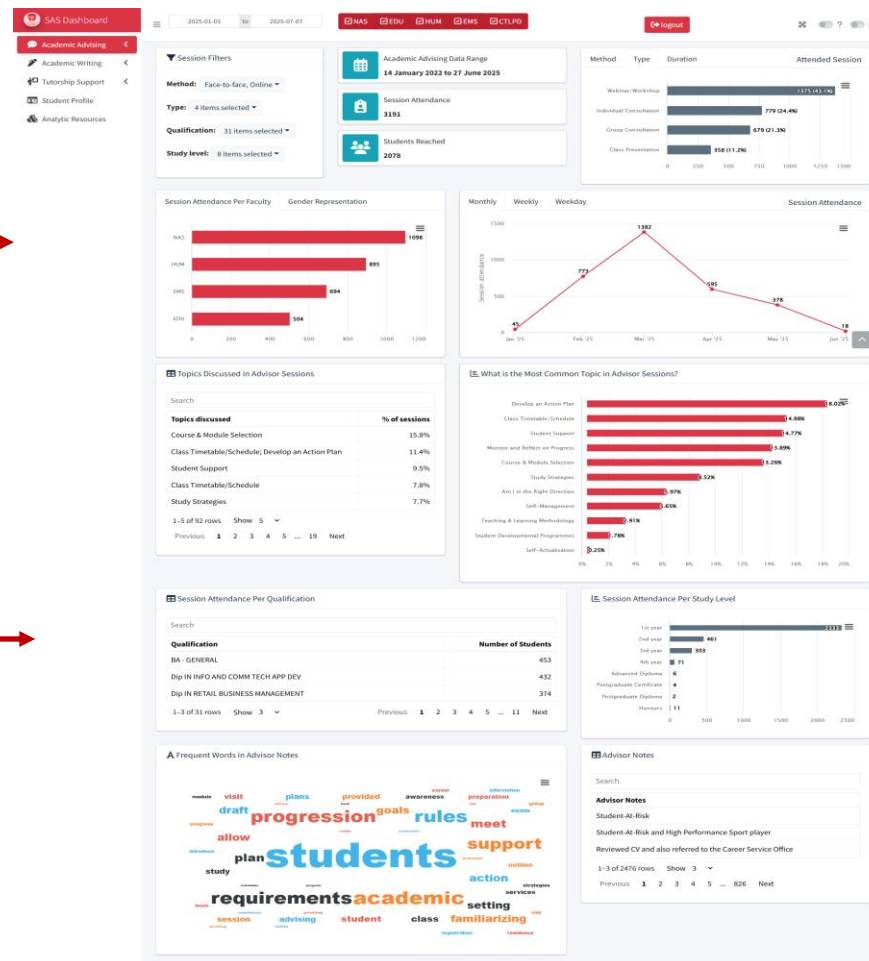
Student Support Analytics

Insights on:

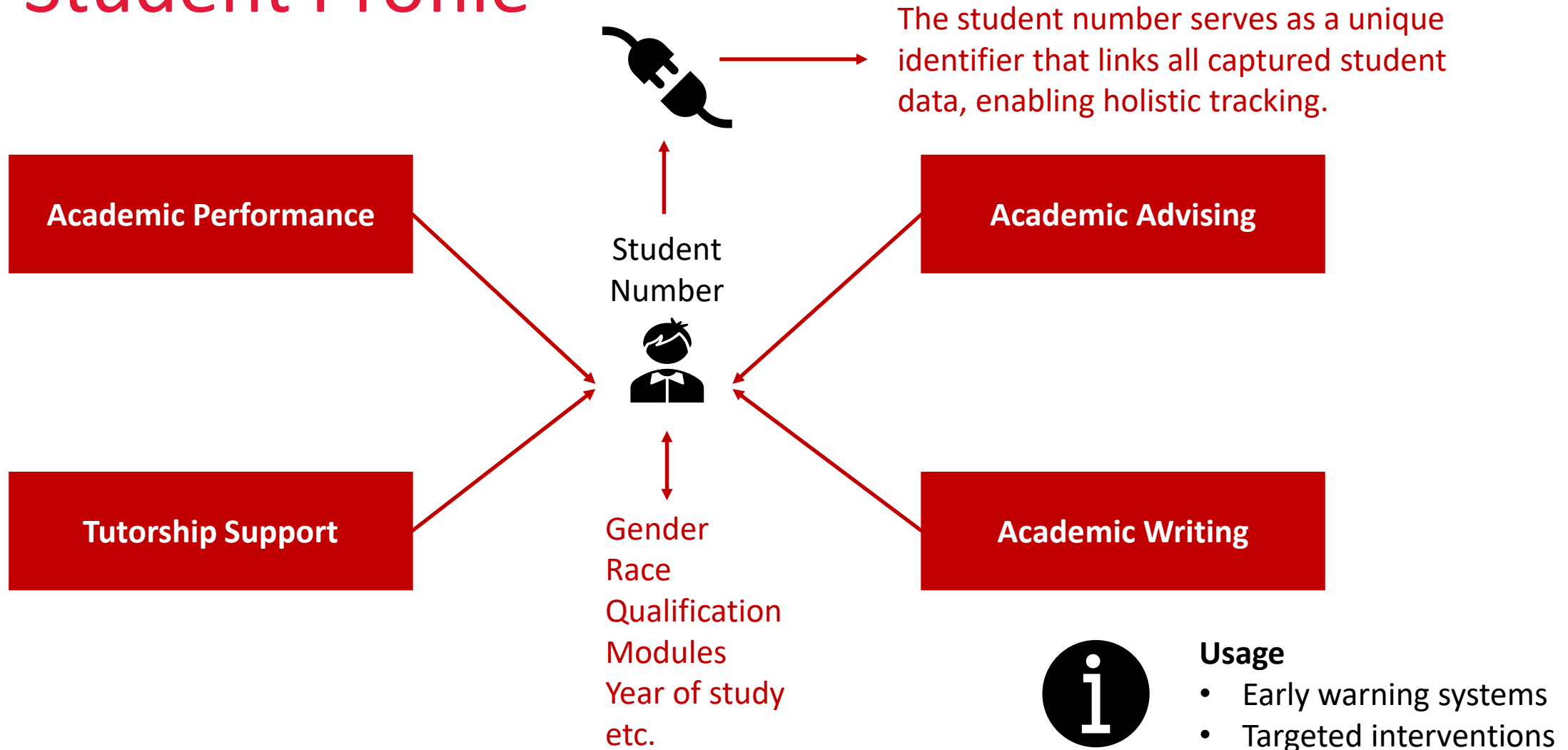
- Access
- Engagement
- Impact

Insight Drilldown:

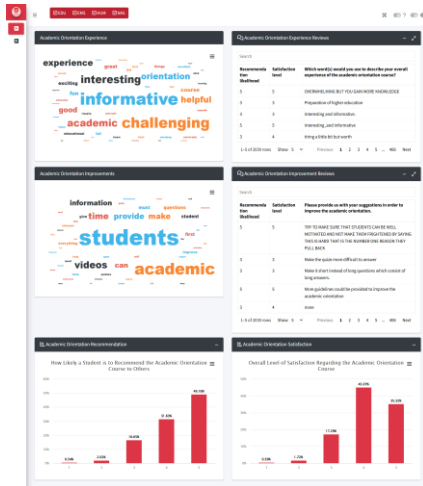
- Usage Period
- Faculty
- Study Level
- Qualification
- Session Method
- Session Type



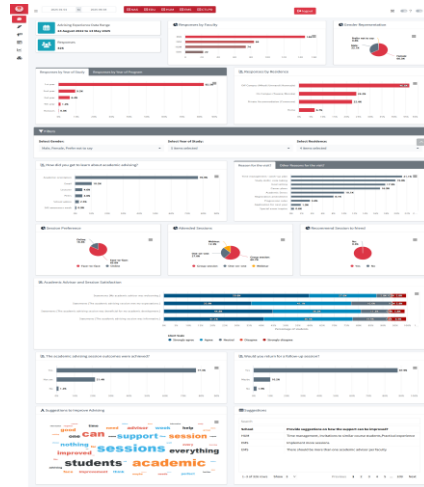
Student Profile



Student Voice and Academic Outcomes



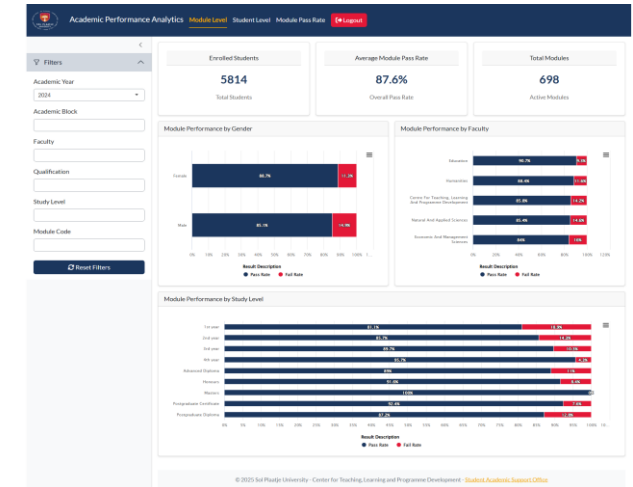
Academic Orientation



Support Feedback



Module Evaluation

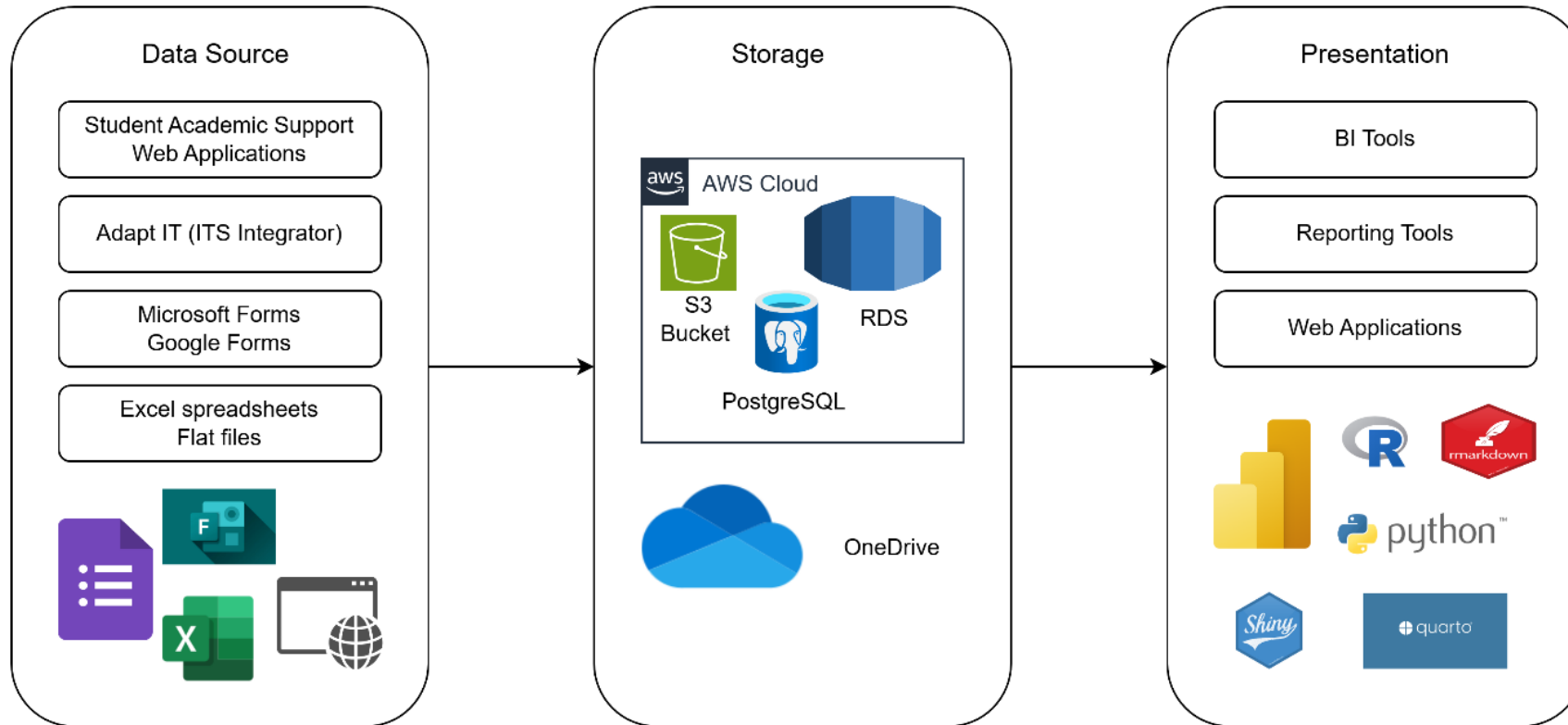


Academic Performance

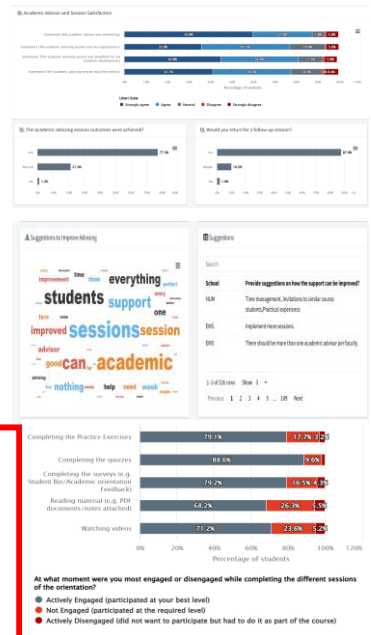
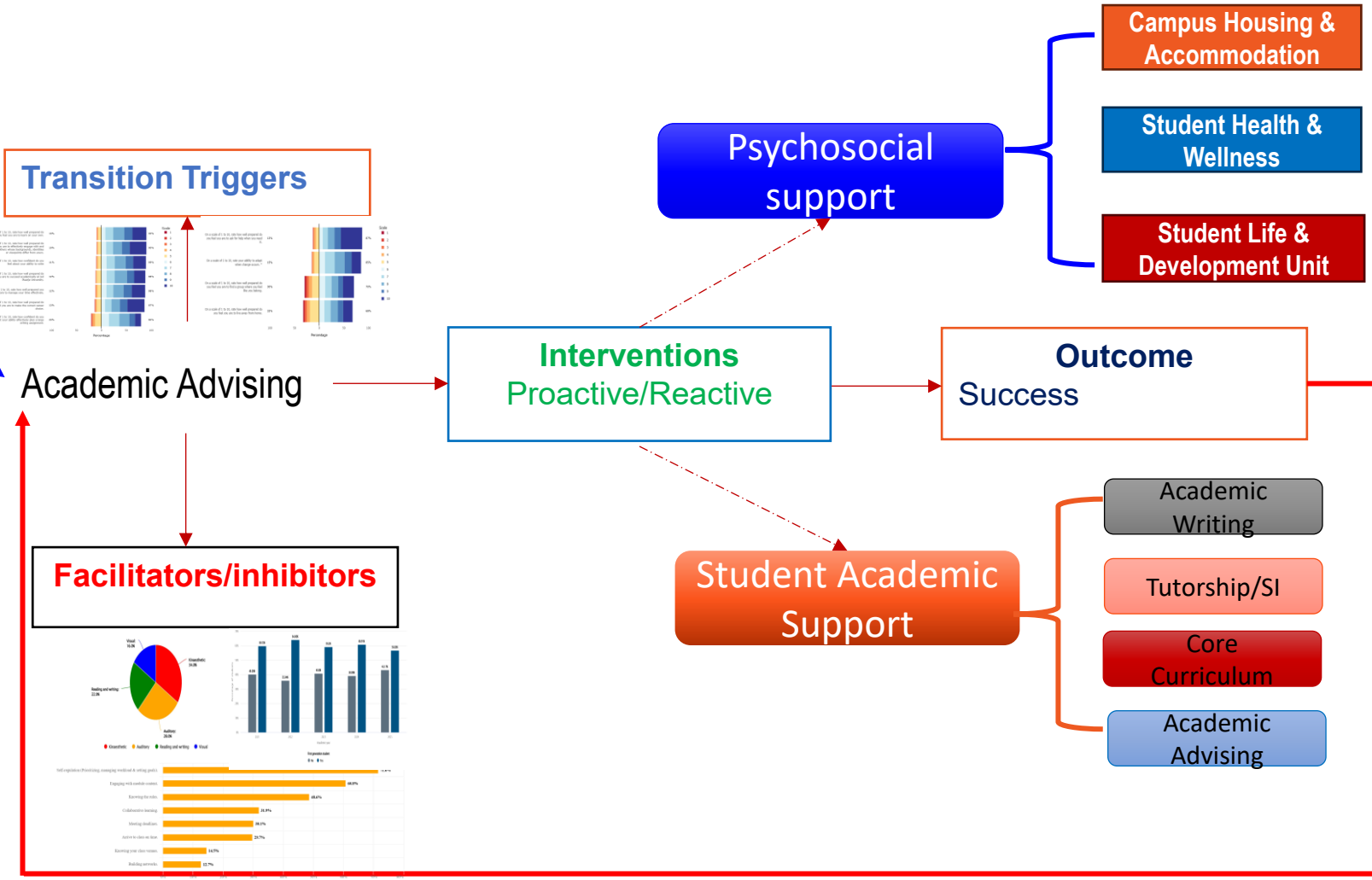
Student Voice

Academic Outcomes

High-level Data Analytics Structure



STUDENT SUPPORT ECOSYSTEM



Feedback

Mapped route



Performance in the academic orientation course was a statistically significant predictor of progression to the following year.



2023 & 2024



Guided route



Academic advising serves as a **buffer** for students, specifically those who did not perform well in academic orientation, to enhance their retention and progression.

Data-Driven Decision Making

Strategic planning & budgeting
Monitor & improve institutional performance
Identifying opportunities for growth & innovation

Enhanced teaching and learning approaches
Improved course design
New SoTL opportunities



Personalised learning
Improved academic performance and engagement

Data-informed interventions
Targeted support
Improved efficiency



Questions and Comments



Thank you



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