

This year has been quite interesting- at the beginning of the year I contacted the ADD to access a mailing list of mature students as the university doesn't keep data on the age of students after the initial application to SOAS. The ADD had to check with students it was ok for their data to be passed on by this list can be updated each year.

I sent some emails to this list over the course of the year- especially around the ongoing strikes when I compiled a document with all the different correspondence from the different unions and the university.

I tried to hold regular office hours during the first term but I found any students wanting help or information contacted me via email or through the mature students Facebook page (often through private messaging) and so I was able to arrange times to meet them.

I also tried to arrange a forum but no students turned up.

One thing that I noticed this year was students struggling with learning languages from scratch, especially if they didn't have the grammatical knowledge in English. I had a meeting with the ADD about introducing language skills workshops/ more help online however it's a question of funding and where it comes from- the ADD was pretty responsive but personal circumstances have meant I haven't been able to follow this up as of yet. I have also briefly liaised about the bridging course for mature students and the lack of specific referencing and language skills sessions within the program, so hopefully these comments will be taken on board when the program for next years intake is finalised.