



Eliminating barriers to postgraduate
research study in the West Midlands



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

PROJECT BRIEF

DATA ANALYSIS

THAT'S ME!

ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO
POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDY
IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

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AIM

To work with the *That's Me!* (TM!) Data Manager to analyse and report on institutional data.

OUTLINE

The *That's Me!* Project has collated a range of institutional data relating to postgraduate research including about applications, progression and awards. This is managed by the *That's Me!* Data Manager and subject to the project's Data Access and Use Protocol, which outlines guidelines for accessing, managing, and utilising sensitive data related to That's Me! The protocol is designed to ensure that data is handled responsibly, ethically, and in

compliance with relevant regulations. The Data Manager cleans and analyses the data to inform fieldwork and the preparation of reports. The Research Assistant will support the Data Manager to clean and visualise data, explore alternative data analysis strategies, and position findings in the context of relevant publicly available data.

It is expected the project will have three main phases:

- 1. **Evaluation** of MRes' and open access bridging programmes across the sector, reviewing course webpages.
- 2. **Present** initial findings to the working group in mid-July.
- 3. Compilation of **findings** and **recommendations** for BCU in a **report**.

METHODS

Primarily this will involve using software such as Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) to quantitatively analyse the data held on areas such as postgraduate research (PGR) admissions, progression, outcomes and destinations/post PGR measures.

Analyses are likely to involve:

- » Tests of normality and related assumptions;
- » Standard inferential tests (t-tests, Analysis of Variance's (ANOVA's), basic correlations);
- » Tests such as multi-linear or logistic/binary regressions where the datasets allow.

After analysis for each of the research action groups priority areas this data will need to be summarised and visualised effectively for each

of the action research groups to use for their own reports and write ups.

It is hoped we will be able to interrogate the data further. This may also involve alternative techniques such as:

- » Single Sample statistical tests, where our data is compared against similar national data sets (which will need gathering and cleaning).
- » Data modelling where a sufficient sample exists, and/or data bootstrapping.
- » Use of platforms such as Tableau to visualise specific findings and issues from the dataset for the different action research groups.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1. As part of this role, we will be responding to the quantitative focussed research questions of each action research group accordingly.
 - 2. There will be the opportunity to address further aspects of the data as the analysis progresses.

OUTCOMES

Initial outcomes will include:

- » Data visualisations for each action research group as needed;
- » Summary of findings for each action research group;
- » Top level summary/report regarding each of the data sources and the general findings of interest and note.

Potential outcomes may include:

- » Conversion of data visualisation to web/social media friendly info-graphics;
- » Cleaning and creation of mini-data sets or interact visualisations and dashboards (PowerBi, Tableau);
- » Cleaned and summarised comparator datasets of publicly available national level datasets;

INDICATIVE TIMELINE AND MILESTONES

The table provides indicative expectations as the project progresses through expected phases. This can be negotiated with the Research Assistant as relevant to their time commitment and progress. The period will be scaffolded with support and engagement opportunities.

Date	Activity
June 17	Induction
June 24	Data Familiarisation , Discussion of different team goals and related outputs
July 1	Routes Out Analysis
July 8	Routes Out Visualisation , Routes Through Analysis
July 15	Routes Through Visualisation , Routes In Analysis
July 22	Routes In Visualisation
July 29	Summary Report Completion , Additional Analysis