



Eliminating barriers to postgraduate research study in the West Midlands



**BIRMINGHAM CITY**  
University

# 02 WORKSHOPS TO EXPLORE BARRIERS

## THAT'S ME!

ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO  
POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDY  
IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

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August 2025

Published by BCU

That's Me! is funded by UKRI and The Office for Students



Research  
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Office for  
Students

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During **That's Me!**, Birmingham City University extended the project's fieldwork beyond its original scope to generate a richer, comparative understanding of the postgraduate research experience. This expansion allowed us to explore a wide range of perspectives across the research ecosystem through multiple data collection methods, including interviews, focus groups, surveys, and creative approaches. Participants included undergraduate and postgraduate taught students, postgraduate researchers, postdoctoral researchers, alumni, professional services staff, regional employers, postgraduate research supervisors, and research leaders. To ensure coordination and uphold high standards of research practice, the project leads established a set of supportive protocols covering ethical approval, research planning and delivery, data management and access, and resources to guide data analysis. These measures provided a consistent framework across diverse strands of activity while safeguarding research integrity and participant wellbeing. Beyond these formal methods, we also engaged stakeholders in a series of workshops to both inform and promote project activities.

Collectively, with a reach of ~394 engagements, this fieldwork underpins a range of Outputs, including Outputs 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 16, 17, 18, and 30, 31. Documentation relating to our fieldwork will be made openly available through BCU's open access resource (Output 34), contributing to sector-wide learning and enabling others to adapt and apply our approaches in their own contexts.

This document provides an overview of the scope and nature of our fieldwork. All data is on file within BCU's research governance structure.