



Eliminating barriers to postgraduate
research study in the West Midlands



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

BEYOND THE DOCTORATE: A CAREERS SERIES FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHERS

EVALUATION REPORT

THAT'S ME!

ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO
POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDY
IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

Dr Kamaira Jones
December 2025

Published by BCU

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



Research
England

Office for
Students



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Delivered as part of the **That's Me!** Project, **Beyond the Doctorate: A Career Series for Postgraduate Researchers** was designed to support Global Majority postgraduate researchers (PGRs) in navigating diverse career pathways within and beyond academia, while embedding inclusive practice, co-creation and representation at the heart of professional development. The series was developed through a three-stage co-creation process with Global Majority PGRs and, while it was open to all PGRs to maximise impact and foster community-building, its design and content were intentionally shaped to be by and for Global Majority researchers.

Between February and October 2025, eleven career seminars were delivered, engaging academic and professional speakers from universities, the NHS, and industry. Topics ranged from academic career pathways and post-doctoral applications to industry transitions, networking, wellbeing, and inclusive leadership.

The series demonstrated meaningful progress towards the **That's Me!** Project goals of equity, empowerment, and employability. Qualitative evidence — gathered through participant feedback forms, blog reflections, and stakeholder consultation — highlighted the impact of representation and authenticity in supporting PGR development. Attendees valued the honest, experience-based tone of sessions, the opportunity to interact with Global Majority role models, and the accessible online delivery model.

Engagement challenges were also observed, particularly around maintaining consistent attendance among PGRs facing research and workload pressures. Nevertheless, the evaluation confirms that **Beyond the Doctorate** has established an inclusive, replicable model of best practice for professional development and employer engagement in postgraduate research.