



Eliminating barriers to postgraduate
research study in the West Midlands



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

PROJECT BRIEF

PRE RESEARCH MENTORING PROGRAMME FOR GLOBALLY MAJORITY STUDENTS

THAT'S ME!

ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO
POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDY
IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

Published by BCU

That's Me! is funded by UKRI and The Office for Students
Date: 24th September 2025



Research
England

Office for
Students



AIM

The aim of this project is to develop an effective and sustainable mentoring programme for Postgraduate Research (PGR) students from Global Majority backgrounds. This programme will engage current PGRs, alumni, and regional employers to create a supportive network that enhances the academic and professional development of these students.

OUTLINE

The purpose of this research project is to develop a mentoring programme for Global Majority PGRs that involves alumni and regional employers. The researcher will review existing literature on mentoring programmes to identify successful programme components, challenges, and strategies for overcoming these, providing a foundational knowledge base for the project. Following this, the researcher will be expected to engage key stakeholders to develop ideas for a mentoring programme. It is expected that the project will have the following phases:

- 1. **Conduct** a literature review on existing mentoring programmes and their impact on Global Majority student groups.
- 2. **Engage** with key stakeholders including current PGR students, alumni, TM Routes Out Action Research Team, and regional employers to gather insights and identify needs.
- 3. **Design** a mentoring proposal based on research activity and produce a summary report.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1. What are the specific challenges faced by Global Majority PGR students in their academic and professional journeys?
- 2. How have existing mentoring programmes addressed the needs of Global Majority student groups, and what can be learned from them?
- 3. What are the expectations and needs of current PGR students, alumni, and regional employers regarding a mentoring programme?
- 4. How can a mentoring programme be structured to maximize its impact on the academic success and career development of Global Majority PGR students?

METHODS

The research will utilize a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis. Including but not limited to:

- 1. Desk-based research to investigate existing mentoring programmes and their impact on Global Majority student groups
- 2. Collaborative sessions with stakeholders to co-design the mentoring programme, ensuring it is tailored to the specific needs of Global Majority PGR students.

OUTCOMES

A summary report that details the research findings and makes a proposal for a mentoring programme.

INDICATIVE TIMELINE AND MILESTONES

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

Date	Activity
June 17	Induction / Phase 1
June 24	Evaluation of programmes
July 1	Engage external mentors
July 8-15	Programme Design
July 22	Report writing
July 29	Delivery of Outcomes