



Eliminating barriers to postgraduate  
research study in the West Midlands



**BIRMINGHAM CITY**  
University

# PROJECT BRIEF

## OPEN ACCESS MATERIALS

# THAT'S ME!

ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO  
POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDY  
IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

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# AIM

To support realising the *That’s Me!* commitment to open access through developing an open access strategy and open access materials.

# OUTLINE

That’s Me! is governed by the UKRI Open Access Policy: UKRI open access policy – UKRI. Open Access refers to the practice of making scholarly research and academic content freely available to anyone with internet access. The approach aims to remove financial, legal, and technical barriers to accessing research outputs, enabling a wider dissemination of knowledge and fostering greater collaboration and innovation across stakeholders. Benefits include increased visibility and impact of researchers, enhanced access and

transparency, and accelerated discovery and innovation. This project will, in the context of UKRI policy: (1) develop a best practice-based open access strategy for *That’s Me!* that includes recommendations for tracking engagement (2) collate *That’s Me!* project materials (e.g., planning documents, literature reviews and fieldwork designs); and (3) prepare best practice open access materials to be published on the *That’s Me!* webpages. The accessibility, usability and attractiveness of materials is key.

The project is expected to have 3 phases:

- 1. Research open access best practices to draft an evidence-informed strategy.
- 2. Build an inventory of That’s Me! project materials, and preparation for making them open access (e.g., quality assurance, metadata points etc)
- 3. Create best practice open access materials ready for publication.

# METHODS AND GUIDING QUESTIONS

The project will involve analysis of relevant literature, policy and practice, and creative design. Guiding questions include:

- 1. What is considered best practice in terms making a research project open access in the context of relevant policy?
  - 2. What materials does the That’s Me! project hold?
  - 3. How can those materials best be prepared for open access?

# OUTCOMES

- 1. Draft open access strategy.
- 2. Inventory of That’s Me! project materials, identifying items for open access.
- 3. Set of materials ready to be published open access.

# 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 /Best practices research              |
| June 24-July 8 | Best practices research/strategy drafting       |
| July 8         | Inventory creation/Sharing strategy draft       |
| July 15        | Inventory creation                              |
| July 22        | Creating/sharing exemplar open access materials |
| July 29        | Delivery of outcomes                            |