



Eliminating barriers to postgraduate
research study in the West Midlands



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

PROJECT BRIEF

OPEN GLOBAL MAJORITY POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENT FORUMS

THAT'S ME!

ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO
POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDY
IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

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AIM

To introduce regular open Global Majority Postgraduate Research (PGR) student forums, aligning with both That's Me! and BCU's organisational goals relating to diversity and representation.

OUTLINE

The purpose of this research project is to introduce a safe space for Global Majority PGR students to meet with representatives of the Doctoral Research College to share their views and perspectives on their doctoral journey. The researcher will explore debates around concepts of safe spaces, particularly for those who identify as Global Majority, consulting relevant academic literature and potentially through discussions with BCU's Global Majority PGRs. This research will inform a pilot of an initial student forum to be held in mid-July. Following this pilot, the research will generate feedback from attendees on the process, and produce a brief report on the experience for dissemination. This report will inform the structure and organisation of future Global Majority student forums that will take place in 2024-25.

It is expected the project will have three main phases:

- 1. **Primary** and **secondary** research to determine **best practices** for organising and delivering open student forums for Global Majority Students.
- 2. **Delivery** of one open student forum for Global Majority Students in July 2024.
- 3. Compilation of **findings** and **recommendations** in a **report**, offering actionable recommendations to enhance inclusivity through a regular programme of open student forums.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1. What are the recommended best practices for delivering open student forums in an EDI context?
 - 2. What benefits do Global Majority PGRs see open student forums having for enhancing inclusivity?
 - 3. What are the best practices and recommendations for running open student forums for Global Majority PGRs?

METHODS

This project will take a qualitative approach, requiring engagement with relevant secondary literature relating to safe spaces and student forums before undertaking brief interviews with Global Majority PGRs to assess their views on such spaces. This research will inform a pilot open student forum, and an evaluation form will capture the views of participants.

OUTCOMES

- 1. A pilot open student forum in July 2024
- 2. A report that summarises the findings the research project and offers recommendations for best practice.
- 3. A proposed programme of open student forums for the 2024-25 academic year.

INDICATIVE TIMELINE AND MILESTONES

This 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 - July 8	Literature review and interviews
July 15	Pilot study and evaluation
July 22	Report writing
July 29	Delivery of Outcomes