That's Me! Eliminating barriers to postgraduate research study in the West Midlands

BIRMINGHAM CITY University

PROJECT BRIEF

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH RESEARCH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

THAT'S ME!

ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDY IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

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AIM

The aim of this research project is to develop a Research Exchange Programme that offers professional development events and activities tailored for Postgraduate Research (PGR) researchers. This programme will culminate in the delivery of an initial event in July 2024, serving as a prototype to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the exchange programme on enhancing the professional skills and academic networks of PGR researchers.

OUTLINE

This research project is structured to systematically design, implement, and evaluate a Research Exchange Programme for PGR researchers. The project begins with a needs assessment to identify key areas of professional development, followed by the

The steps are as follows:

1. Conduct a literature review and stakeholder engagement to identify the professional development needs of PGR researchers.
2. Design a Research Exchange Programme incorporating best practices and addressing the identified needs.
3. Organise and deliver an initial professional development event in July 2024.
4. Design a programme of activity for 2024-25, involving key stakeholders, such as academics, support services, PGRs and regional employers, in the delivery of the programme.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the professional development needs of PGR researchers?
2. What best practices from existing professional development programmes can be integrated into the Research Exchange Programme?
3. What are the key components of a successful professional development event for PGR researchers?

METHODS

This project will take a qualitative approach, involving mainly desk-based research to investigate recommended approaches to researcher development for PGRs and evaluate what current activities take place across BCU.

OUTCOMES

1. Delivery of a PGR professional development event in July 2024.
2. A programme of PGR professional development 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	Literature review and evaluation
July 1 - 8	Plan event
July 15	Deliver event
July 22	Produce programme
July 29	Delivery of Outcomes