
Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline

Title: Supporting International Students in the Transition to UK Higher Education

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Project abstract:

It is evident that international students now form the majority of some cohorts on degree courses in the UK and are considered to be important financial assets for higher education institutions. There is also an increasing (and alarmingly high) number of students suffering from mental health issues due to the stress of being unable to construe unfamiliar academic practices, language use and cultural differences, with a large number of these reportedly suffering for prolonged periods (Atack, 2018). This is generally a result of international students not being given the time and appropriate support needed to transition comfortably into their new environment, before facing the challenges that come with trying to pass high-stakes courses.

This study intends to explore the value of using an intercultural approach in EAP to smoothly transition international students onto pre-sessional courses, whilst mitigating the impact of language shock, culture shock and academic shock (Carroll and Ryan, 2005), and promoting a positive washback effect in the process. Interventions around pre-sessional courses (such as, a session about differences between teaching methods) will be incorporated during an induction period, then the differences in overall experience between past and current students will be examined through quantitative data collection.

References:

- Atack, P. (2018) Mental health concerns for international students. *The Pie News*. Retrieved from: <https://thepienews.com/news/36-of-international-students-report-mental-health-issues/>. Accessed on: 17th December 2022.
- Carroll, J. and Ryan, J. Eds. (2005) *Teaching International Students: Improving Learning for All*. Oxford: Routledge.

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Supporting International Students in the Transition to UK Higher Education

Data Collection

What data will you collect or create?

I will be working with relatively small amounts of data (between 20 and 200 participants) from student surveys gathered via an online survey tool. Data from these surveys will be added to Excel spreadsheets. Data collected will be from a range of questions on self-reported academic knowledge and associated understanding of expectations. There is no existing data on this project at the University of Northampton, however past students of pre-sessional courses will also be surveyed in order to compare the experiences of those who had not received any interventional support and those who have. No demographic data is being collected in order to maintain anonymity of students in particularly small cohorts.

How will the data be collected or created?

Data will be collected from written surveys including a scaled questionnaire. An ANOVA test will be used to track responses at different points of the process. Data from each cohort will be held in an Excel spreadsheet named "Supporting International Students-Course name. + date information". There will be a tab for each questionnaire named: "Cohort+date". A separate spreadsheet will contain the key linking the data. All files will be stored in a folder named "Enhancing Intercultural Competence".

Documentation and Metadata

What documentation and metadata will accompany the data?

A key document will accompany the data in order for it to be read. This will also be accompanied by a copy of the research proposal and methods.

Ethics and Legal Compliance

How will you manage any ethical issues?

- Voluntary informed consent for use of the data will be confirmed through the final question on the questionnaire.
- This asks for their permission to use and share the data for research purposes.
- The identity of participants will be unknown due to anonymous completion of the questionnaire.
- The project will be subject to the approval of the LLS ethics committee.

How will you manage copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues?

The dataset will have a DOI minted and then will be made freely available through the open access repository at the University of Northampton.

Storage and Backup

How will the data be stored and backed up during the research?

The data will be stored in a password-protected file on Research SharePoint, and backed up on OneDrive.

How will you manage access and security?

Permissions for access to data can be set through Research SharePoint.

Selection and Preservation

Which data are of long-term value and should be retained, shared, and/or preserved?

The dataset will be retained on the institutional repository for comparison with future datasets.

What is the long-term preservation plan for the dataset?

The dataset will have a DOI minted and be placed in the institutional repository, which will allow indefinite access. Once a preservation platform has been implemented, the university will take charge of long-term preservation.

Data Sharing

How will you share the data?

Data will be released for open access on completion of the project. It will have a DOI ascribed when it goes into the University repository. Findings from the data will be shared at conferences such as IATEFL in Harrogate 2023, and possibly through eventual publication, as well as team meetings within Educational Linguistics, Learning and Teaching Enhancement, and/or the wider LLS team.

Are any restrictions on data sharing required?

No restrictions on sharing for non-commercial use will be needed, subject to consent from participants and approval from the LLS Ethics committee.

Responsibilities and Resources

Who will be responsible for data management?

The independent researcher (Nadia Hards) will be responsible for implementing the data management plan, as well as responsibility for data retention, review and access control at the end of the project.

What resources will you require to deliver your plan?

No extra resources or training are required.