

Your Future **me** Design Thinking Problem Brief

Department: Psychology

L3 BSc Psychology – Level 3 Foundation Year

Opening question:

How might students from diverse backgrounds, with different experiences & identities, be supported to fully participate and succeed in their psychology degree?

Context:

In universities across the UK, as well as MMU specifically, there is an award gap between BAME students and white students, with BAME students on average being awarded lower degree classifications. Statistics also suggest that 'First generation' students (those who are the first in their family to attend university) are more likely to drop out of their studies, as are undergraduate students with a disability. These problems then translate into the career-world of psychology. For example, nearly 80% of UK clinical psychologists are female and only 6% of psychologists in the UK are from black and minority ethnic backgrounds.

Explore the data about entry characteristics and attainment within psychology at university. We want you to consider ways that this narrative can be changed by generating solutions that build empowerment and move towards a more inclusive and proactive response to this issue.

This must be done in a human-focused, empathetic manner that acknowledges the wide range of challenges and complexities involved.

Starting points/ prompts:

- How can universities be redesigned to be more inclusive? This can be in terms of
 - Transition into university
 - Curriculum content
 - Extra-curricular opportunities
 - Communal spaces
 - Pastoral support
 - Resources for study skills
 - Work experience
- How can you hold this conversation in a sensitive, empathetic manner that doesn't alienate anyone?
- In what ways are institutions responsible for this award gap?
- What strategies can you identify that might close the award gap between white and minority ethnic students?
- Explore resources and literature which explores these issues in further depth such as: [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: Alternative strategies for closing the award gap between white and minority ethnic students | eLife \(elifesciences.org\)](#)

[The right track: Participation and progression in psychology career paths | The Nuffield Trust](#)

[Full article: Is inclusion still an illusion in higher education? exploring the curriculum through the student voice \(tandfonline.com\)](#)

[Improving equity and inclusion for people to access psychological professions training | Health Education England \(hee.nhs.uk\)](#)