

**LINCOLN HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH AWARDS (LHERA)**

**FINAL REPORT 2017-18**

*Please complete all sections of the proforma below and return to* [*lheri@lincoln.ac.uk*](mailto:lheri@lincoln.ac.uk) *by 29th June 2018*

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| --- | --- |
| **Project title** | Storying a Sense of Belonging |
| **Project lead** | Dr Paula O’Brien |
| **Other collaborators** | *Dr Patrick Hylton* |
| **Project duration** | *7 months* |
| **Project dates** | *From: 01/10/2017*  *To: 01/05/2018* |
| **LHERI funding received** | *££750* |
| **Please provide an overall account of the project describing the research questions, ethics approval process, brief overview of the methodology and main activities, including how students and collaborators contributed to the research** *(max 500 words)* | |
| Data has previously been gathered from second year students during the last previous academic year and has now been anonymised by Dr Hylton. Four students will be recruited as co-researchers alongside myself and Dr Hylton to analyse this data. The use of students as co-researchers is valued highly by the 2 lead investigators and believe that these students will make a valuable contribution to the interpretation and presentation of the research findings. Understanding the storying of a sense of belonging from a student perspective makes a valuable contribution to the literature within the sector.  “Within the sector, a student’s sense of belonging has largely been explored using survey data (What Works 2012, 2017). In contrast, a story completion approach has been specifically developed for the purpose of exploring a student’s sense of belonging from a qualitative perspective and lends itself to a deeper understanding of the student experience. Data collection will primarily take place within the School of Psychology among students in their second year. Ethical approval has therefore been sought and approved for this project. The students who participate in this project will be required to generate individual responses by completing a story completion task. Each participant will each be emailed a story-completion task to complete within a specified time. After the in-session activity, these students will be asked if their uploaded submission could be used as part of research informed teaching practice shared within the wider academic community. Students are not required to identify their name or enrolment number for the purposes of anonymity. Consideration has been given to the process of data collection and therefore the anonymity procedures used for coursework submission will be used. Blackboard has been as a approved as a digital platform for storage of data which is compliant with the university’s requirement for security and confidentiality of research data.  Each student will be randomly sent one for six versions of the story to complete. • Story A: An international student arranged a meeting with their student representative. • Story B: An international student arranged a meeting with their personal tutor. • Story C: A mature student arranged a meeting with their student representative. • Story D: A mature student arranged a meeting with their personal tutor. • Story E: A student arranged a meeting with their student representative. • Story F: A student arranged a meeting with their personal tutor.  Students were employed as co-researchers to analyse the data generated and to identify themes from the data. The student interpretation was essential. Training of student researchers was met via a training workshop which was designed to meet their training needs  Project lead and collaborator to write up themes.  Ethical clearance was gained from the School of Psychology Ethics Committee [SOPREC@lincoln.ac.uk]prior to the project starting. This ethical clearance process required that consideration around the issues of deception, right to withdraw, anonymity and psychological stress was addressed. | |
| **What challenges, if any, occurred during your project and how did you overcome these?***(Max 250 words)* | |
| *The challenges that were encountered in the project included:*   1. *Setting up an account with Campus Jobs was difficult [this required many emails and follow ups]* 2. *On-going monitoring the financial side of the project was not straightforward as we were unable to access a live information point which would reveal current spends [this required many emails and follow ups]Limited control over whether students submitted timesheets. This needs to be improved centrally* 3. *Researchers given very short notice of final LHERA event [although we comply with this]* | |
| **Please outline the major tasks and milestones delivered in this project. How far do these follow the outline in your original application? Please detail any variations and additional deliverables that occurred** *(Max 250 words)* | |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Original Timeline** | **Original Tasks and Milestones** | **Variations / additional deliverables** | | See app | recruitment | Slight variation due to delay from Campus Jobs | |  | Data analysis training | Workshop delivered | |  | First stage of analysis | Completed no variation | |  | Final stage of coding/analysis | Delayed due to student commitments to thier assessment | |  | Submission to conference | Completed on time | |  | Exhibition event | Completed audio overview on time | |  |  |  | | |
| **Please provide details of all outcomes and outputs from the Higher Education Award funded project, including any activity you plan to take forward beyond the funding –** *this will include specific details of dissemination / scholarly outputs, evidence of impact or potential impact from the research processes and findings, plans for ‘next steps’ with the research etc.* | |
| Acceptance of paper at RAISE conference 2018  The HE award led to :- a successful bid for a TSEP project where we chosen to explore the attainment of BME students -10 month project with other universities [national project] | |
| **Please provide outline details of expenditure against the budget** *(this should be available from TechOne)***. If your project costs varied from the original application please provide details.** | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Project budget code:- |  |  |  |  | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Income | Budget | Actual | Remaining |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Pay |  | £221.79 | £528.21. |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Non-pay |  | We are unable to confirm if students been paid as this is controlled by Campus Jobs and payroll |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | |
| **Is there any feedback you would like to give to the HE Research Institute to assist us in the development of these awards in future?** | |
|  | |

Completed by ……………………………………….

Date …………………………………………………

Please submit this report to [lheri@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:lheri@lincoln.ac.uk) no later than …………….