

Measuring the international student experience in the UK



The fractious political debate about the status and benefits of international students in the UK sends an unwelcoming

message to the more than 670,000 young people, who are not only invited to study here but are also keen to excel. Cutting through this discordant background noise, Lecturer in Psychology in Education ***Dr Nadia Jessop*** is investigating ***international students' feelings of inclusivity in the UK*** across a range of measures, to better understand their experience of university life and its relationship with their mental health, wellbeing and performance. With a recent report showing that this diverse group brings an estimated total net benefit of £37 billion for the

UK economy, Dr Jessop's research amplifies the voices of those most impacted by the debate.

The project involves the development of the multidimensional student inclusion (MDSI) scale, which measures international students' relational inclusion in interactions with peers and staff, physical inclusion on campus and in neighbourhoods, and functional inclusion concerning issues of equity and power.

Dr Jessop's research found that feelings of inclusion among friends, in the neighbourhood and on campus were related to lower levels of depression and higher levels of life satisfaction among international students. From a university administrative perspective, much effort goes into the quality of teaching and learning, which international students appreciate, though they also long for greater

inclusion among British peers and neighbourhoods. For example, one student remarked, *"Sometimes I feel slightly excluded in more rural parts of the city I study in where I get the odd stare but overall it has been very welcoming."*

Of particular concern were results showing that international students reported lower levels of functional inclusion than home students because functional inclusion was positively related to international students' overall academic engagement, class attendance and expectations for how well they would perform on their course.

Going forward, this research project will contribute to improving international students' experiences of inclusion at UK universities, thus ensuring that they are not just invited to the party but that they are also asked to dance.

Understanding contracting with external partners

The [Research and Knowledge Exchange Contracts at the University of York](#) guidance/documentation sets out the University's main contracting positions when engaging with external partners.

Written with external partners in mind, it offers detailed insights on what to expect when collaborating with the University of York and provides University staff with key information about the contracting process and the internal support available.

The document covers the University's status and purposes, nature of collaboration and funding sources, Intellectual Property (IP) rights, confidentiality and publication and Limitation of Liability.

For more information: [Who to contact in Research and Knowledge Contracts](#)



Introducing the Business Development Team

In January the University welcomed the new Head of Business Development to the Research, Innovation and Knowledge Exchange (RIKE) Directorate. James Hastie joins the University from industry and comes with a track record of delivering successful commercial projects in several sectors including healthcare, renewable energy and consumer products. James is joined in the team by Natalie Dearlove, as Business Development Team Administrator. Natalie has previously worked at the University in both the Economic Development and Enterprise Works Teams.

Over the coming months, the Business Development team will grow to provide support in key areas aligned with university expertise and core strengths. The Business Development Team will lead industry engagement activities across the university, to support academics in developing new partnerships that create income and impact from research.

The Business Development team is focused on supporting the University's goal of becoming a leading university for industry engagement and partnerships by 2030. We will innovate alongside

business and industry to create a more equitable and sustainable future for all, considering society, culture and the environment alongside economic prosperity.

By expanding and improving our business and industry engagement, we will increase the influence our research has on economic prosperity while also providing wider benefits to society, culture and the environment.

The strategic approach to building the team and delivering a successful business development function across all faculties is based on key principles, illustrated in the steps below:



Left: James Hastie, Head of Business Development and right: Natalie Dearlove, Business Development Team Administrator (RIKE)

<p>Benchmarking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extracting data on last year performance Overview of engagement across the Growth areas in Faculties Metrics on key Industry partners and industrial income. 	<p>Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a clear vision of the UOY offer per growth area Positioning and deliverables within a business canvas format Alignment with faculties 	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core strengths – Alignment and prioritisation Mapping – opportunities, events, networking, landscape, Industry Associations / Memberships Scope / leverage existing partnerships
<p>Positioning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication – website / social media / campaigns Internal facing webpages review and update to drive engagement External website – 'Solved with York' 	<p>Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business development process Toolkit development Opportunity pipeline Customer Relationship Management 	<p>Tracking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and growth targets Activity tracking and management Income / engagement tracking and forecasting

Further communications will be coming out soon giving more detail on the support available to academics, but in the meantime if you have any questions, want support working with industry or have an idea for a project please do contact the team: business-development@york.ac.uk

Rethinking schizophrenia: finding ourselves in the gaze of madness

Work by [Dr Clara Humpston](#), a Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Mental Health in the Department of Psychology draws on the latest research into the causes and symptoms of schizophrenia that puts the lived experiences of patients centre stage.

The very notion of schizophrenia often strikes fear and avoidance in those unaffected. People avert their gaze from the 'mad person' as if it is contagious, willingly or reluctantly ignoring the severe suffering and dysfunction schizophrenia causes to the individual. Despite the efforts of mental health awareness campaigns which frequently focus on common mental illnesses such as depression and anxiety, public misconceptions and stigmatising attitudes towards schizophrenia have only increased in recent years.

Humpston thinks this is in part because of the nature of schizophrenia, a condition of 'impaired reality testing' where it distorts and destroys our understanding of everyday reality and sense of self, resulting in a state of mind which is unimaginable or 'un-understandable' by the majority of individuals.

During her involvement in schizophrenia research over the

last decade, she has witnessed and encountered countless situations where the patient diagnosed with schizophrenia cannot even begin to find the words to describe their experiences. Her research has centred on the patients' own understanding of their condition and how symptoms of schizophrenia do not necessarily have to be far detached from our daily lives. Furthermore, even if some of these symptoms and experiences are truly bizarre - otherworldly even - the patients themselves should never be beyond human understanding or undeserving of care, and she strongly believes that the illness should never define the individual.

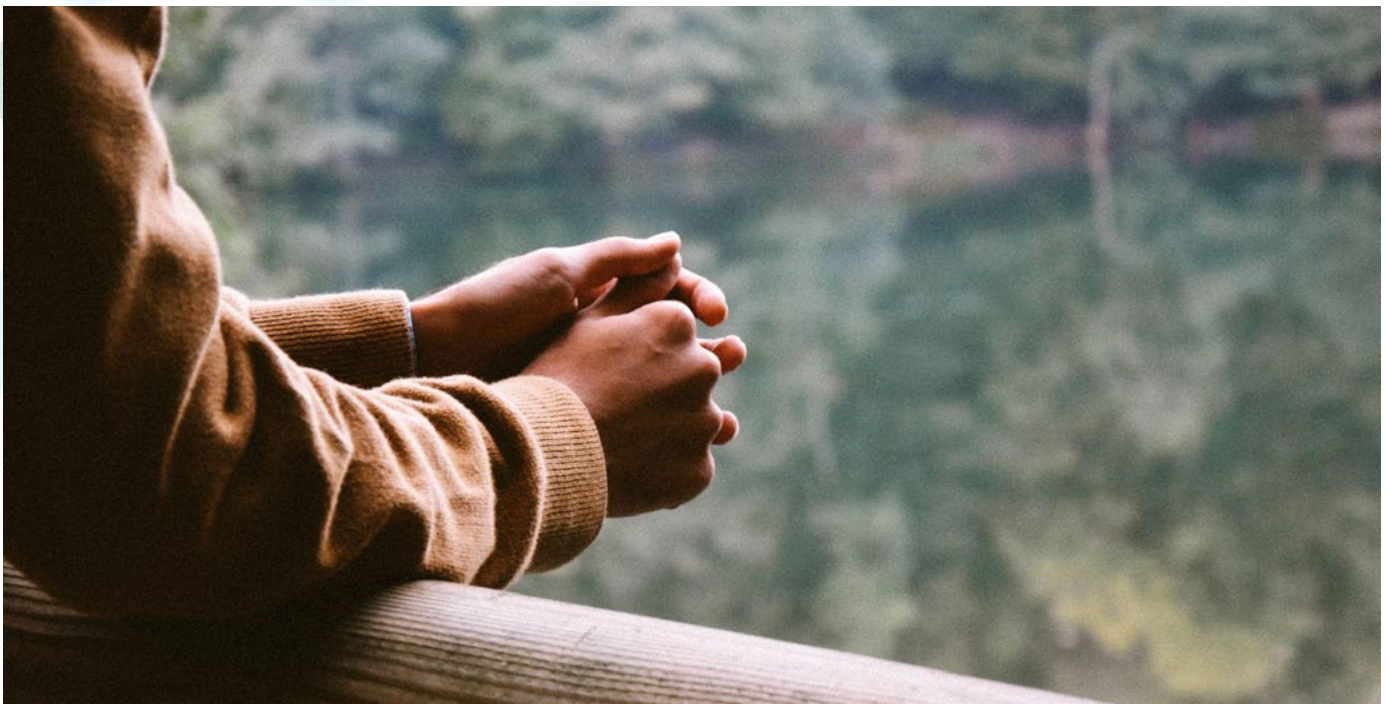
As a Lecturer in Mental Health here at the University of York, Humpston works closely with researchers and clinicians locally, nationally and internationally, as well as patients themselves. Her collaborators have helped her to revive the lost tradition in psychopathology

research where the human experience is put centre stage. Most importantly, this is a direct result of working with individuals who have experienced schizophrenia first-hand, not as subjects to be studied but as valuable contributors on equal footing.

Perhaps we as a society can only become more accepting of the kind of reality that patients with schizophrenia perceive when we finally realise that even though everyone can make false inferences about oneself and the external world, our realities are always real to us, regardless of the label of madness.

[Clara Humpston - Rethinking schizophrenia: putting human experience centre stage \(YorkTalks 2024\)](#)

Explore YorkTalks and other events at the University of York: www.york.ac.uk/research/events





The Arts and Humanities Research Council's (AHRC's) CoSTAR Programme

The **AHRC's CoSTAR Programme** aims to secure and drive the international competitiveness of the UK's screen and performance sectors, an important component of the UK economy. It consists of four physical labs (led by Royal Holloway University of London, Ulster University, Abertay University and the University of York) focusing on screen, real-time and live performance.

Each lab will develop a world-leading facility in the research and development of a specific aspect of novel immersive and interactive screen technologies. An additional Foresight Lab (Goldsmiths University of London) will support the other labs' activities through a focus on current and future trends in the creative industries.

The University of York is partnering with Production Park, near Wakefield, to create **CoSTAR LiveLab**, which will become a thriving infrastructure, generating innovative screen technologies and workflows to drive the next generation of immersive live performance experiences.

Virtual Production (VP) and related convergent media technologies utilise digital tools such as computer-generated imagery, motion tracking and virtual and augmented reality to produce immersive media

experiences that mirror the real world, or that are completely new.

The VP technology has been used in the gaming, film and television industries, but its application to the live performance industry has only begun to be explored. CoSTAR LiveLab will support the development of new accessible, low-cost technologies and frameworks targeted at real creative sector needs. LiveLab is a continuation of the University of York's strong track record for delivering high-impact research in Extended Reality (XR) technologies and developing the creative industry in its region.

The lab will consist of a new custom-built laboratory infrastructure, alongside an existing VP facility, and is situated on a campus of businesses committed to producing the very best in live performance experiences for globally

leading clients from across the entertainment industry.

The lab will support research and development in six areas related to VP and live performance: interactivity and virtual spaces; networked performance and user experience; future production workflows; audience human-computer interaction; worldbuilding; and democratisation and standards. It also funds a team of researchers to create technologies that are close-to-market and shaped by the needs of industry. The facility will enable commercialisation of the research and will incubate start-ups and high-growth small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The lab will also have an Access programme to encourage public and industry participation.

[Find out more about CoSTAR LiveLAB](#)