Visualising student journeys
David Morse & David King
School of Computing & Communications

What? – from student numbers …

… on the next, previous or current presentation …

Why? – the rationale

- The flexibility of OU study means that students follow a variety of pathways through qualifications.
- Consequently, understanding and modelling the student journey and hence forecasting student numbers is extremely difficult.
- The project will include an analysis of student success so that common qualification pathways can be identified and linked to achievement.
- The project outcomes will include
  - an improved understanding of the student journey,
  - better student number forecasting, and
  - more information, advice and guidance provided to students on module and qualification choice.

… to visualisations …

… using Network diagrams and Sankey diagrams

How? – the project plan

1. Data gathering – what data is available?
2. Semi-formal requirements gathering – what would people like to see in the data and what data would they like to see?
3. Iterative development of prototype visualisations based on available data and requirements gathered to inform the requirements gathering with practical examples of possible visualisations
4. Use of visualisations to support Quality Monitoring and Enhancement and Student Number Planning processes, and provide an informal evaluation
5. Development of guidance for students to be made available through the Study Website and the Student Support Team
6. Production of final project deliverables – prototype software visualisations, software documentation and final project report with recommendations on the development of the prototypes

david.morse@open.ac.uk & david.king@open.ac.uk