

# Evaluation of Access for Postgraduate Study

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The Open  
University

Access for Postgraduate Study is going to be available through OpenLearn, and will support the Succeeding in Postgraduate Study BOC – rolled out for 18E presentations of M812, M813, T805, T848, T849, T867, T891, and TU811

## Evaluation activity in 3 stages

- ❖ Collection of TMA marks and module results on selected modules for 3 groups of students:-
  - Students studying on 16K and 17E, who have not had the BOC or Access for Postgraduate Study
  - Students studying on 17K, who have had access to and been directed towards the BOC
  - Students studying on 18E, who will have been directed towards the BOC and Access for Postgraduate Study support
- ❖ Interviews with multiple cohorts of students
  - Qualitative data on how the BOC and Access for Postgraduate Study assisted students in preparation – what helped, what aspects made their study easier, how can the programme be refined? Do students see a development in their skills as a result of this preparatory study?
  - For students who did not have any additional support – what were the most difficult aspects of starting postgraduate study, and what did they need help with?
  - For students who decide not to progress into PG study after studying the Access for PG programme – what was their decision based on? Would any refinements to Access for PG study help?
- ❖ Analysis of TMA marks and final results cut by students' previous educational qualifications
  - Do the BOC and Access for Postgraduate Study assist in raising retention levels and TMA scores?

## Outputs and innovations

- ❖ Conference presentations expected in Spring/Summer 2019
- ❖ Journal article expected Autumn 2019
- ❖ Collaboration between different faculties (STEM and LTI) within the university to deliver on retention objectives
- ❖ Highlighting the benefits of supporting orientation activity at postgraduate level, and improving continuing student numbers across the university.