

# Perceptions of the Usefulness of Level 1 Service Mathematics

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## Perceived relevance and usefulness of Level 1 mathematical study

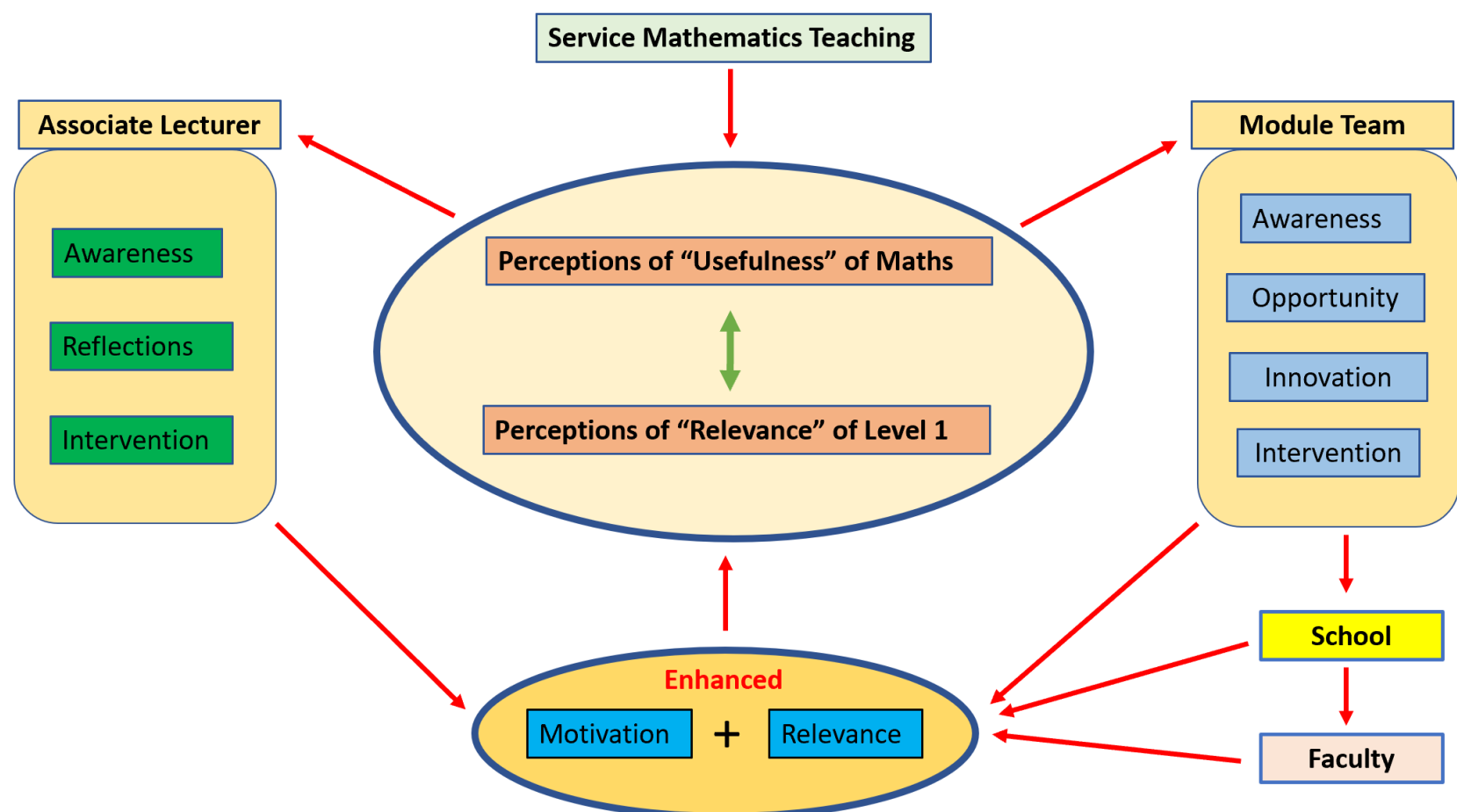
It is well established in the literature that students of Level 1 service mathematics often fail to see the usefulness and value of their mathematical studies. It can be difficult for students to appreciate how the skills and tools they develop in Level 1 mathematics will apply to later studies and beyond. This feeds in to a wider problem of the perceived usefulness of Level 1 study generally.

## Who studies MU123?

The Level 1 mathematics module MU123 Discovering mathematics is a key module for a number of degree pathways and attracts a wide diversity of students with varying study intentions. We have quantitative data about where our students come from and the pathways they are registered for, but there is a lack of qualitative data about the motivations and perceptions of students on different pathways.

## Research Questions

- What are the perceptions of the usefulness of mathematical study amongst different MU123 students?
- How can students better be supported in seeing the relevance of their mathematical studies at Level 1 to their future study intentions?



## Actions

- A group of volunteer MU123 ALs will be asked to keep a **reflective journal** on their students' progress.
- ALs will be asked to reflect on their students' perceptions of relevance **at two key assessment stages** of their study: after the first TMA and after the final TMA.
- The data will be collected and analysed in order to create **student personas**, to better understand the perceptions and needs of our MU123 students.
- Further stages will look at designing **specific interventions** to target typical student personas.