

# The BAME Student Experience – Case Study

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# Introduction

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BA (Hons) Sociology with first-class honours



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# Presentation Outline

- 3 examples of practice at the University of Winchester:
  1. *Muslim students' experience and sense of belonging*
  2. *Student Guides to Winchester*
  3. *'Asian' Degree Awarding Gap Research Project*





**Practice 1:**  
Muslim students'  
experience and  
sense of belonging

**Rationale** – Dearth in literature relating to religious students; Muslim students reporting hostility from UK campuses (Aune and Stevenson, 2017; Stevenson, 2017).

## Project 1 – Investigating a sense of belonging for Muslim students

- University of Winchester
- 24 Muslim student participants
- Semi-structured interviews
- 2/3 reported ‘feeling sense of belonging’ – largely correlated to positive academic experiences and ‘Muslim identity’
- BUT, semantic analysis inferred a ‘satisfied settling’ – theory that needed testing!



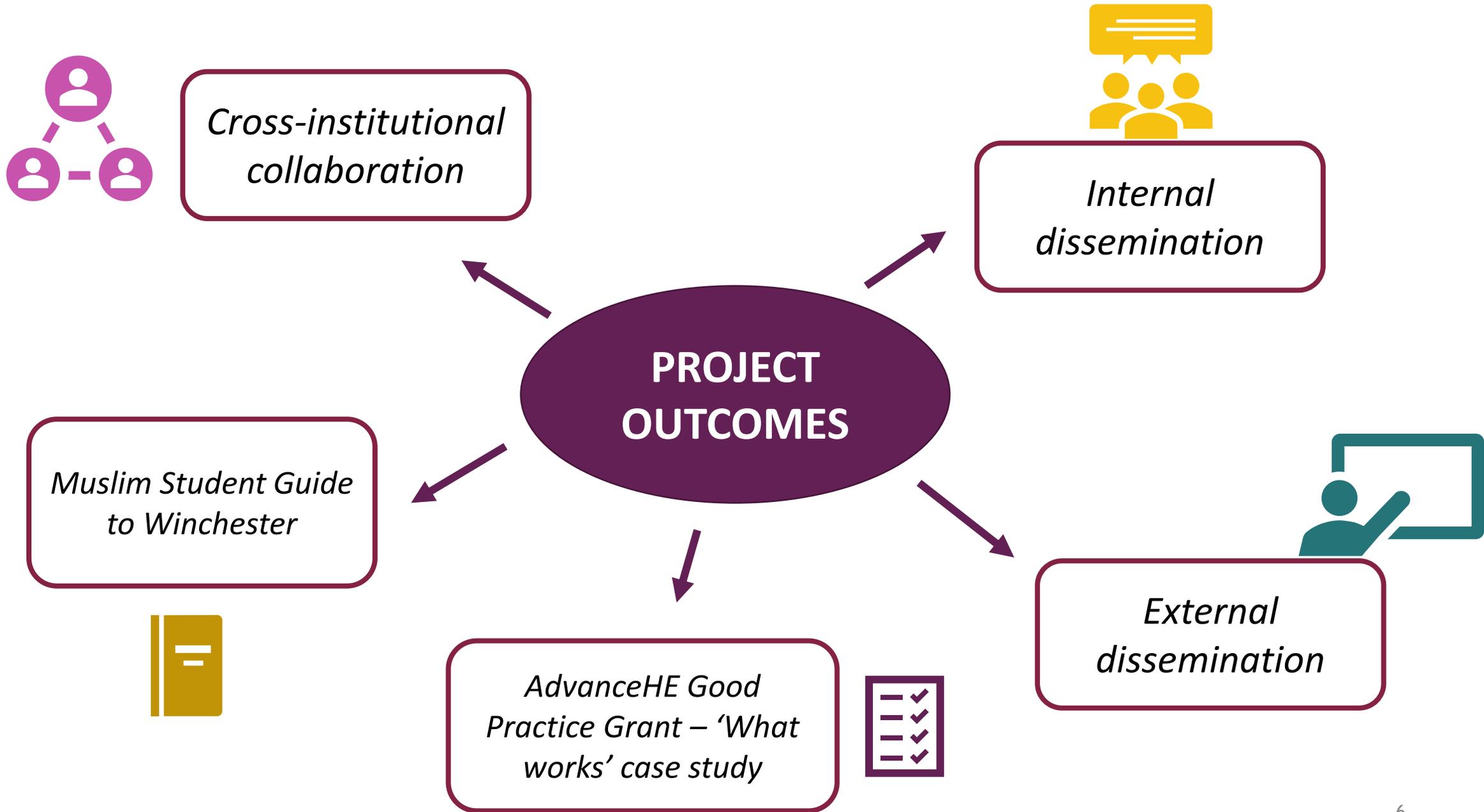
## Project 2 – Exploring the validity of ‘Satisfied Settling’

- Cross institutional research (3 x HEIs)
- 19 Muslim student participants
- Semi-structured interviews
- Mirrored previous findings
- Concept seen as valid
- Implications on Muslim student voice

(Islam *et al*, 2019)



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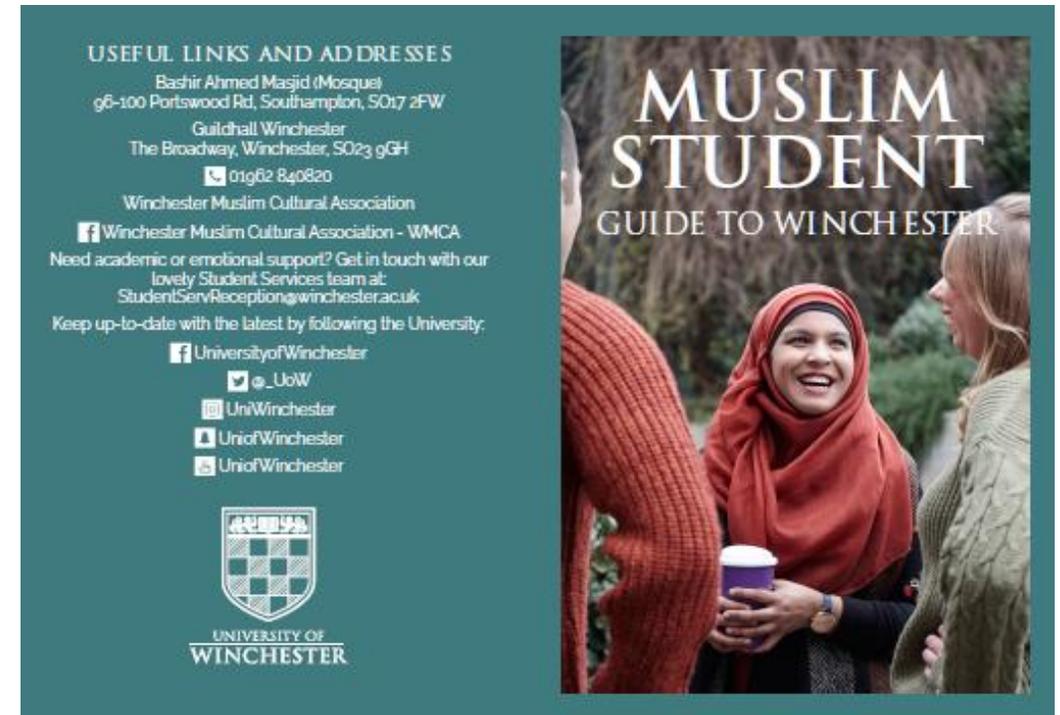




**Practice 2:**  
Student Guides to  
Winchester

**Rationale** – Following launch of Muslim Student Guide to Winchester, more information, advice and guidance provided to underrepresented groups.

- Muslim student guide
  - Student parent guide
  - Black student guide
  - LGBTQ+ student guide
  - Commuting student guide\*
  - Mature and Part-time student guide\*
  - International student guide\*
- 
- Co-production/authentic student feed-in



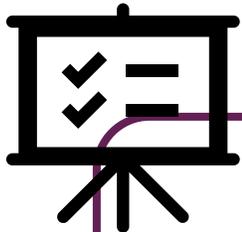


*Cross-department,  
Student Union and  
student collaboration*

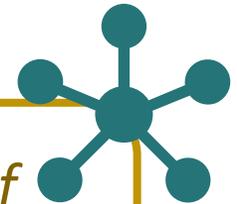


*Secured funding from  
Student Academic  
Council*

**(Planned)  
OUTCOMES**



*External dissemination*



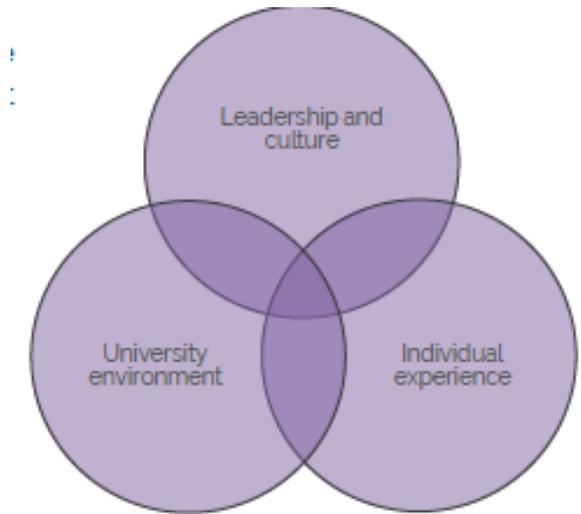
*Agreed points of  
online/physical  
promotion*



**Practice 3:**  
'Asian' Degree  
Awarding Gap  
Research Project

**Rationale** – Identifying an enlarging degree awarding gap between UK domiciled White student and 'Asian' students, project undertaken to understand why this is occurring.

- Flourishing Students Strategy – student success and closing degree awarding gaps
- Qualitative evidence is required to understand the experiences of students → effects on attainment (UUK and NUS, 2019)
- Integrated with Winchester Research Apprenticeship Programme (WRAP) Project – 2 x student research partners (Isabella Valente and Zuni Khan)



**wrap**  
Winchester Research  
Apprenticeship Programme



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# Initial Outcomes and Findings

Online survey (n= 25) and 2 x focus groups in late February (n=12)

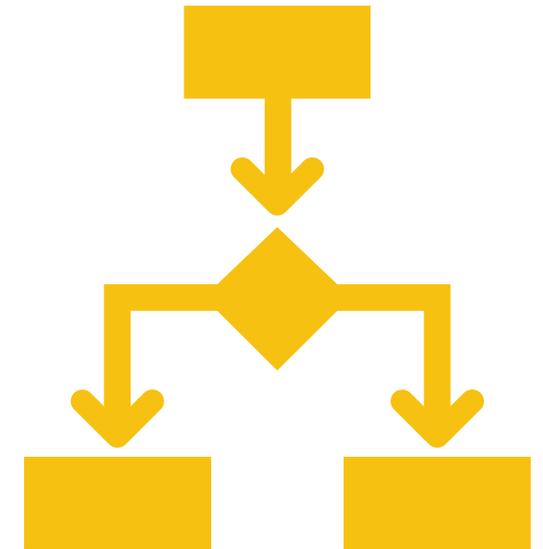
Monthly reporting to Director of Widening Participation and Head of Student Engagement and Employability

*Initial experiences of alienation*

*Importance of culture (including family)*

*Importance of representation (in and outside of curriculum)*

*Desire for stronger cultures of diversity and inclusivity*





**Thank you for  
listening and please  
feel free to ask any  
questions!**

