

# Students' experiences of diversity, inclusion, and equality in their psychology curriculum

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## Background

Diversity in psychology teaching is essential to improve the learning experiences for our students, who include a large number of from underrepresented groups.

Previous studies have found evidence that perceived inclusivity and gender attitudes are associated with burnout (Morales Rodriguez, Rodriguez Clares & Garcia Munoz, 2020), which can have detrimental effects on student wellbeing. Students that are under-represented also show lower retention rates compared to their counterparts that are part of the majority (Hagedorn, Maxwell & Hampton, 2001).

## Co-created questions

15 questions co-created with students (DS and IJ), used in both survey and interview.

*How can psychology courses better integrate diverse voices, theories, and perspectives to help students from different backgrounds feel represented?*

*Can you describe how your motivation to study psychology would be impacted if there were greater representation of diverse psychologists and theories in your classroom content?*

## Aim

**Gain a better understanding of students' experiences of diversity, inclusion, and equality of their psychology teaching, to inform teaching practices and improve retention and belonging of underrepresented students**

## Methods

**Participants:** Psychology students across BSc and MSc

Survey and interviews, focussing on students' perceived diversity and inclusion in their teaching. Students can take part in either (or both). Goal is for interviews to complement survey data with richer experiences.

### Survey

59 participants so far  
27 in BSc Year 1, 17 MSc Conversion, rest mix of BSc Year 2, 3, and recent graduates

### Interview

17 participants so far, interviewed by the student assistants (OA, IJ, DS)

## Preliminary results

Initial response from participants is 'diversity is already really good', which seems unlikely...

Once interviews get going this answer seems to change and there is more clear suggestion of a lack of representation and diversity. Some really thoughtful suggestions of impact on belonging and motivation to study.

Survey data seems to capture more surface level impressions, so helpful for seeing if the same elements of diversity are being noticed by students, and what representation they do see.

## Next steps

Interviews still taking place! Thematic or content analyses of the data to follow.