



## ESCalate Themed funding: Student Well-being Grant Project Interim Report

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**Date submitted** 22 December 2010

**Project Title** Troublesome Encounters: Strategies for managing the wellbeing of Postgraduate Education students during their learning processes

**Project Leader** Prof Gina Wisker

**Institution** University of Brighton

**Partners**  
1. Professor Ray Land, Education, University of Strathclyde  
2. Professor Erik Meyer, Education, University of Durham

**Project Start date** 1 March 2010

**Project End date** 31 July 2011

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**Troublesome Encounters: Strategies for managing the wellbeing of Masters and Doctoral  
Education students during their learning processes**

**November 2010 Interim Report**

**Principal Investigator:** Professor Gina Wisker

**Researcher:** Charlotte Morris

**Partners:** Erik Meyer, University of Durham; Ray Land, University of Strathclyde

**Project Aims:**

1. Develop theoretical understanding through capturing troublesome encounters specific to Education research students;
2. Explore how these encounters impact on personal, professional and academic wellbeing and
3. Identify wellbeing and emotional resilience enhancement strategies students, supervisors, programmes and institutions can employ to enable successful learning experiences.

**Project Plan and Progress to Date**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Progress to date</b>
<b>March 2010</b>	Recruitment of personnel	Charlotte Morris ( <i>Research Officer</i> ) Samantha Cochrane ( <i>Research Administrator</i> )
<b>March 2010</b>	Initial project team meetings	<i>Meetings with key contacts at Brighton, Durham and Strathclyde took place during the summer term and an end of term project meeting took place at Brighton in July.</i>
<b>April 2010</b>	Ethics Approval sought	May 2010 – Ethics approval granted
<b>July 2010</b>	Recruitment strategy; focus group and interview schedules designed	<i>Participants recruited via survey and additional correspondence; recruitment for focus groups and interview and interview schedules discussed at end-of-term meeting</i>
<b>July 2010</b>	Dates for project activities in place	<b>26 January (tbc) 2011</b> , 10.30am-12pm project team meeting <b>9 - 10 March 2011</b> staff / student workshops in Brighton <b>20 – 22 March 2011</b> workshops in Durham & Strathclyde <b>16 June 2011</b> symposium in Strathclyde <b>24 June 2011</b> symposium in Brighton

<b>September 2010</b>	Recruitment of students and staff for focus groups & interviews	<i>Contacts were made via survey. A letter of invitation was distributed to members of staff and to students. The project was publicised at participating institutions.</i>
<b>September 2010</b>	Design, distribution and analysis of survey	<i>The survey was initially distributed in May and also at the beginning of Autumn term to maximise participation. To date, just under 200 participants have completed the survey. Analysis will be underway at the beginning of Spring term and completed at the end of that term.</i>
<b>October 2010</b>	Focus groups and interviews underway	<i>To date, 6 student interviews at Brighton; 7 interviews at Strathclyde and 5 at Durham (total of 18) have taken place. It is hoped that more masters level students will now be recruited and a further 6 interviews are planned. Focus groups of staff and students have been conducted at Brighton and Durham. It was not possible to run focus groups at Strathclyde for reasons beyond the project's control. However the team is confident the data gathered so far will be sufficient to answer the research questions. The research is on schedule to be completed by January as planned.</i>
<b>November 2010</b>	Project team meeting	<i>This is now planned for January 2011 when colleagues have better availability; research will be completed and analysis begun. Plans for workshops and dissemination events in Spring / Summer terms will be discussed.</i>