



Belonging Partnership Project

Co-creating Belonging:
Authentic Staff-Student
Partnerships Through Digital
Programme Communities in a
Multidisciplinary Context

Project Journey

Summer 2022

Co-created
BSc
Accounting
Teams
Community

Summer/ Autumn 2023

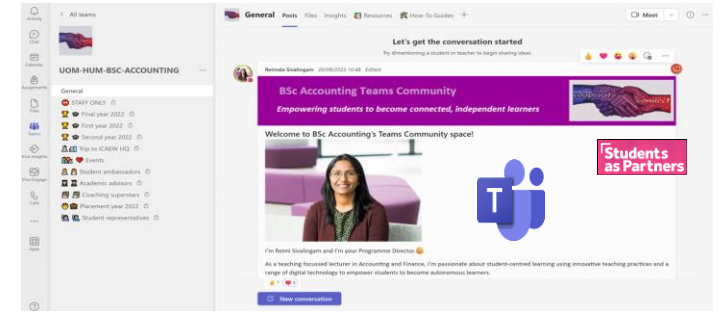
Wider
dissemination
through
workshop/T&L
conference and
published blogs

Summer 2023
5 new pilot
adopters across
university

Summer 2024
Co-presented with
Belonging Network at
T&L conference

Autumn 2024 – present
Won Teaching Excellence
Award and began
qualitative study with
paid student partner to
evaluate impact on
student experience

Summer 2026

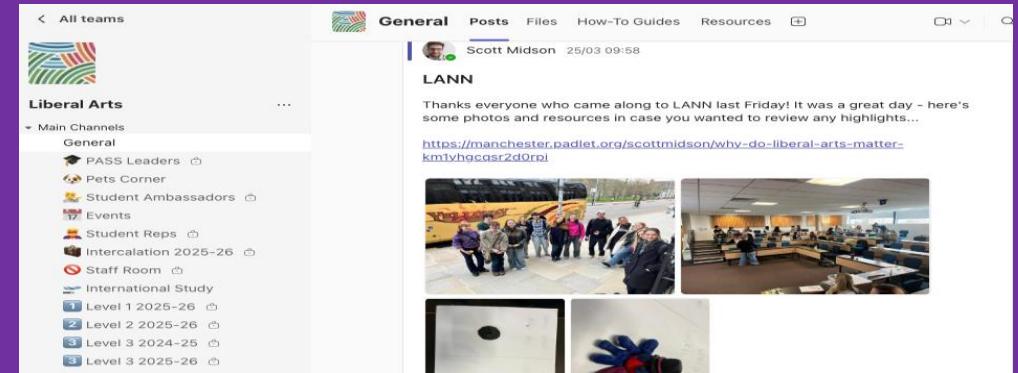


Programme Community Experience

MSc Accounting:

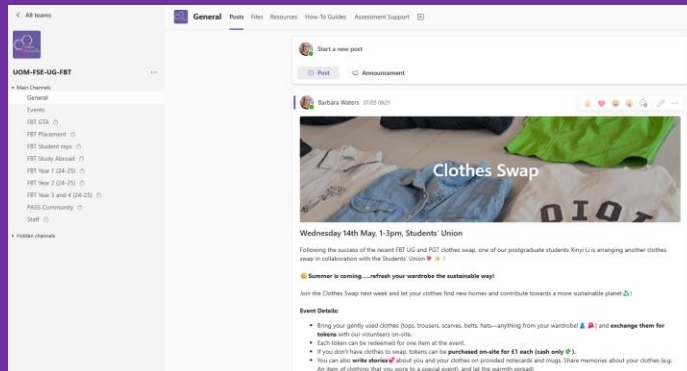


BA Liberal Arts:

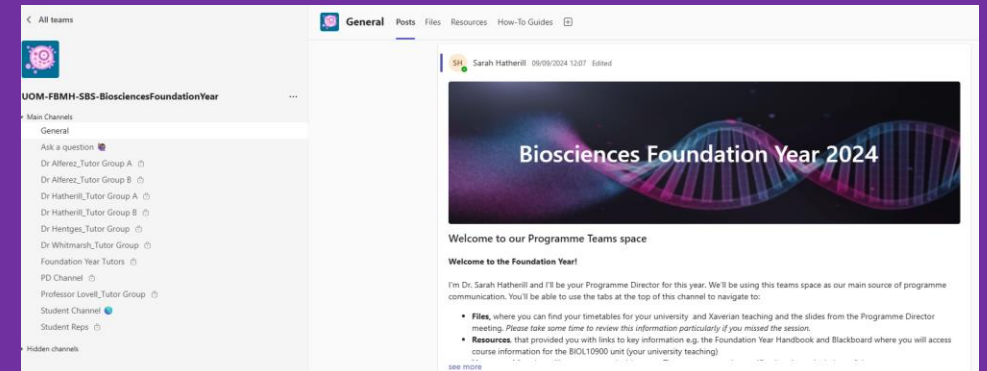


Programme
Teams
Communities

BSc Fashion, Business & Technology:



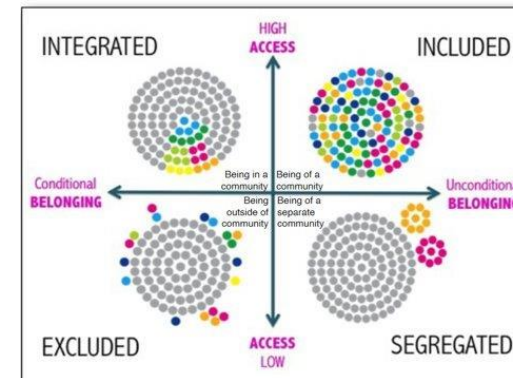
Biosciences Foundation Year:



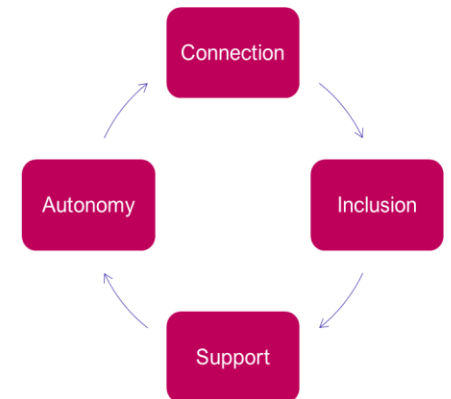
Theory and Methodology



- **Challenge:** 3Cs (*Connection, Collaboration and Communication*)
- **Purpose:** Build inclusive Teams community
- **Students as partners** (Cook-Sather & Felten, 2017) – *design, implementation and evaluation*
- Qualitative interdisciplinary study
- Theory of Change methodology
- Anchor frameworks



(Cobb & Krownapple, 2019)

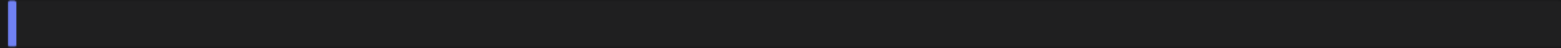


(wonkhe & Pearson, 2022)

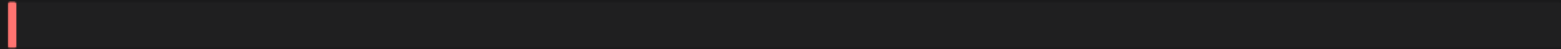
What does "**belonging**" mean to you in a university setting?

I feel I belong when I am (rank in order of most important to least important):

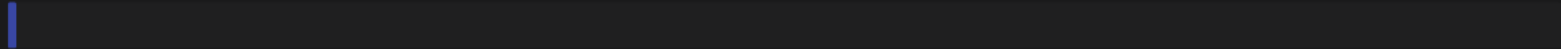
Safe within a friendly space



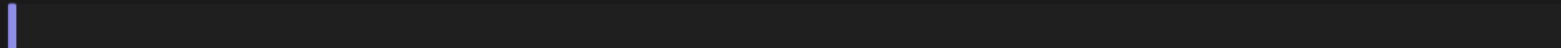
Included and supported



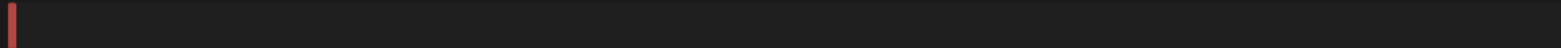
Valued by peers



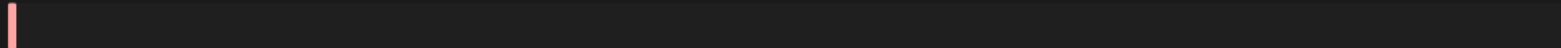
Connected with others



Respected for my identity and background



Free in contributing my ideas and opinions



menti.com

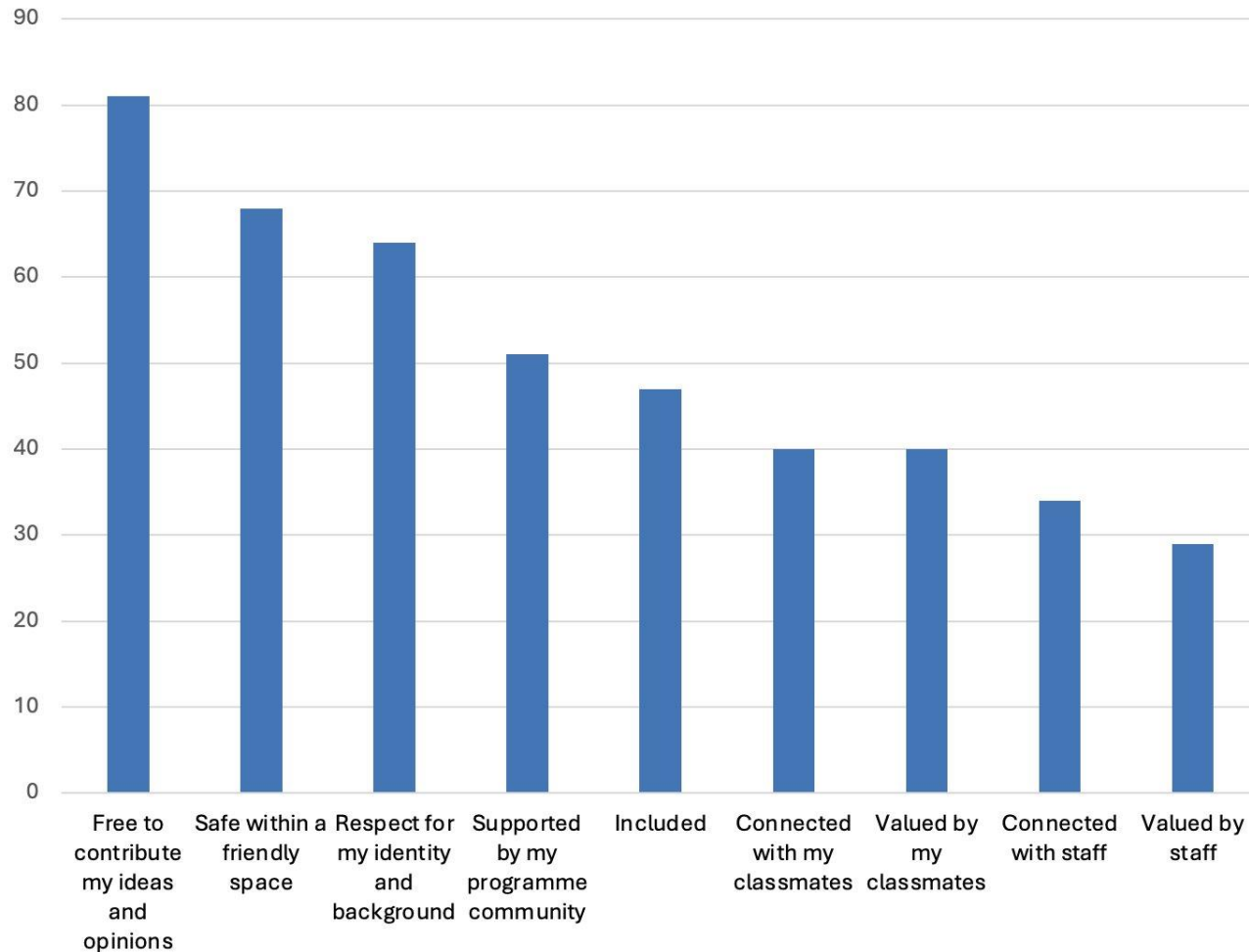
1642 1823

Waiting for participants

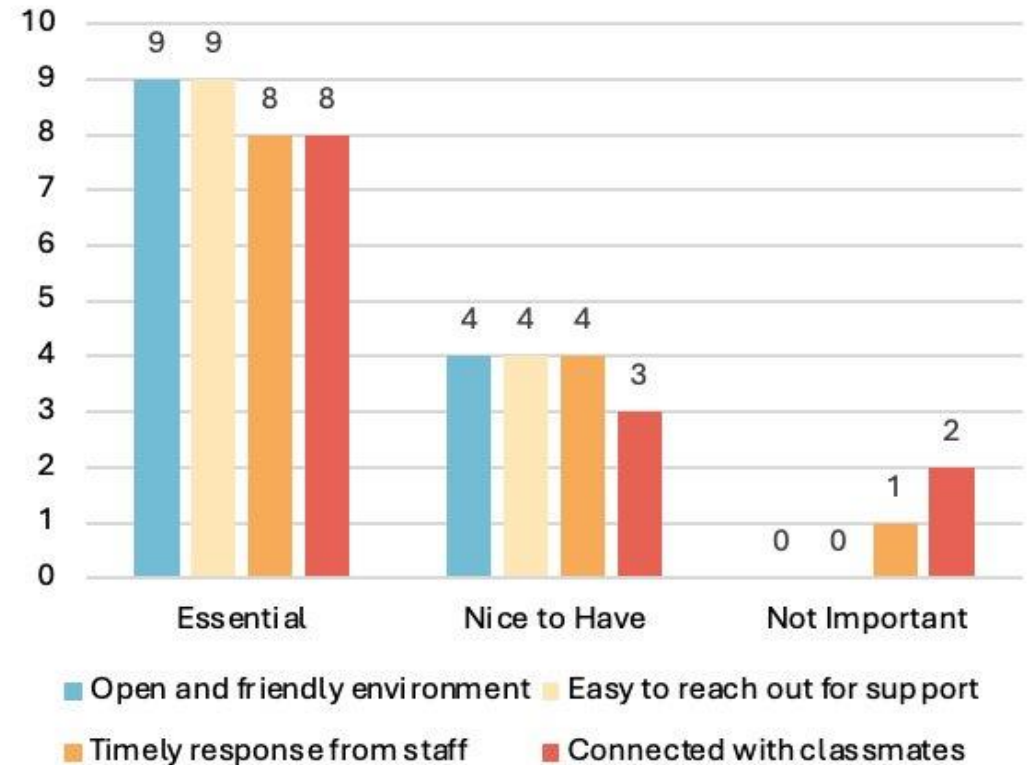
What matters most for belonging?

Student priorities

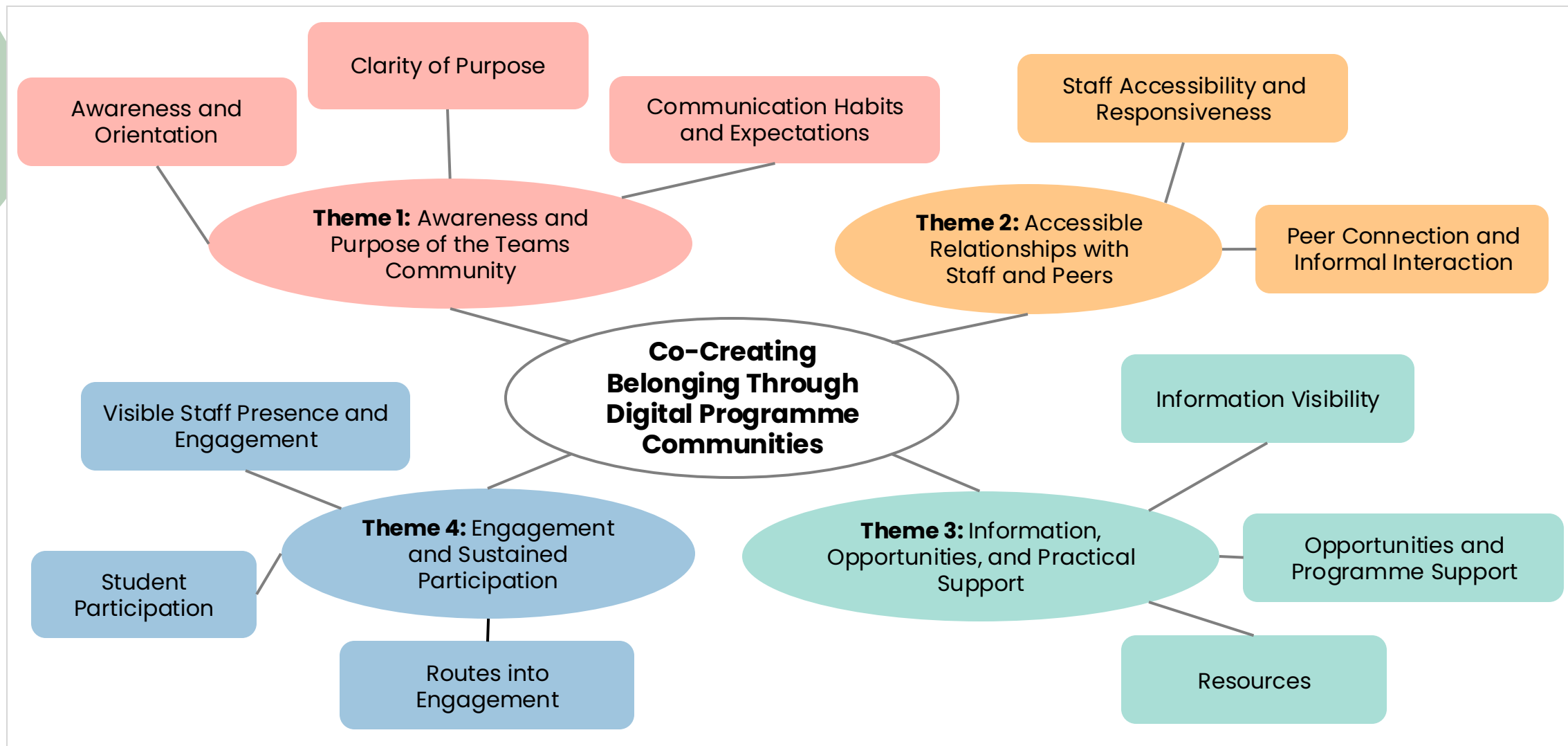
Diamond Activity Ranking



Card Sorting Result



Thematic Findings



Awareness and Purpose of the Teams Community

Enabler

“ *Instead of a general channel [...], it may be more useful to [...] divide into smaller groups.*

–BSc Accounting student

“ *The directors need to system[ize]. They need to want to start [it] first, because she introduced us to the concept of teams [...] at the start of the year. She makes us go through.*

–BSc Accounting student

Challenge

“ *Lack of awareness would be an issue, I think, with the community space.*

– BSc Fashion, Business & Technology student

Accessible Relationships with Staff and Peers

Enabler

“ *I feel like it connects with the lecturers as well and also getting updated on teams like [...] calendar and I actually remember [...] events.*

–BSc Fashion, Business & Technology student

“ *Those from the teacher chat are useful because I feel like [...] it allows for more private interaction to the teacher.*

–Biosciences FY student

Challenge

“ *Reaching out to lecturers like individually, I will just use email for that.*

–BSc Fashion, Business & Technology student

Information, Opportunities, and Practical Support

Enabler

“ I think it’s a lot easier to just use and navigate, and [...] a straight [forward way]

–BSc Fashion, Business & Technology student

“ There’s one function I found superior, [...] the break out rooms. I think it’s much more convenient [...] and efficient [...] for group to communicate in an individual space.

–MSc Accounting student

Challenge

“ The thing about getting notifications and feeling connected go together. Because if you post and no one replies, [...] because they didn’t get notified, [...] I find that genuinely quite humiliating. [...] You’ll be ignored.

–BSc Liberal Arts student

Engagement and Sustained Participation

Enabler

“Everybody has to participate to feel like inclusive.

–BA Liberal Arts student

“I feel like we have more opportunities to interact, engage with Teams rather than like Canvas.

–Bioscience FY student

Challenge

“For me, our community is much more like a notice board. They will regularly update some information [...], but actually we don't interact with each other, just have a look.

–MSc Accounting student

SUMMARY

'4C' Teams Community Framework

for Authentic Belonging

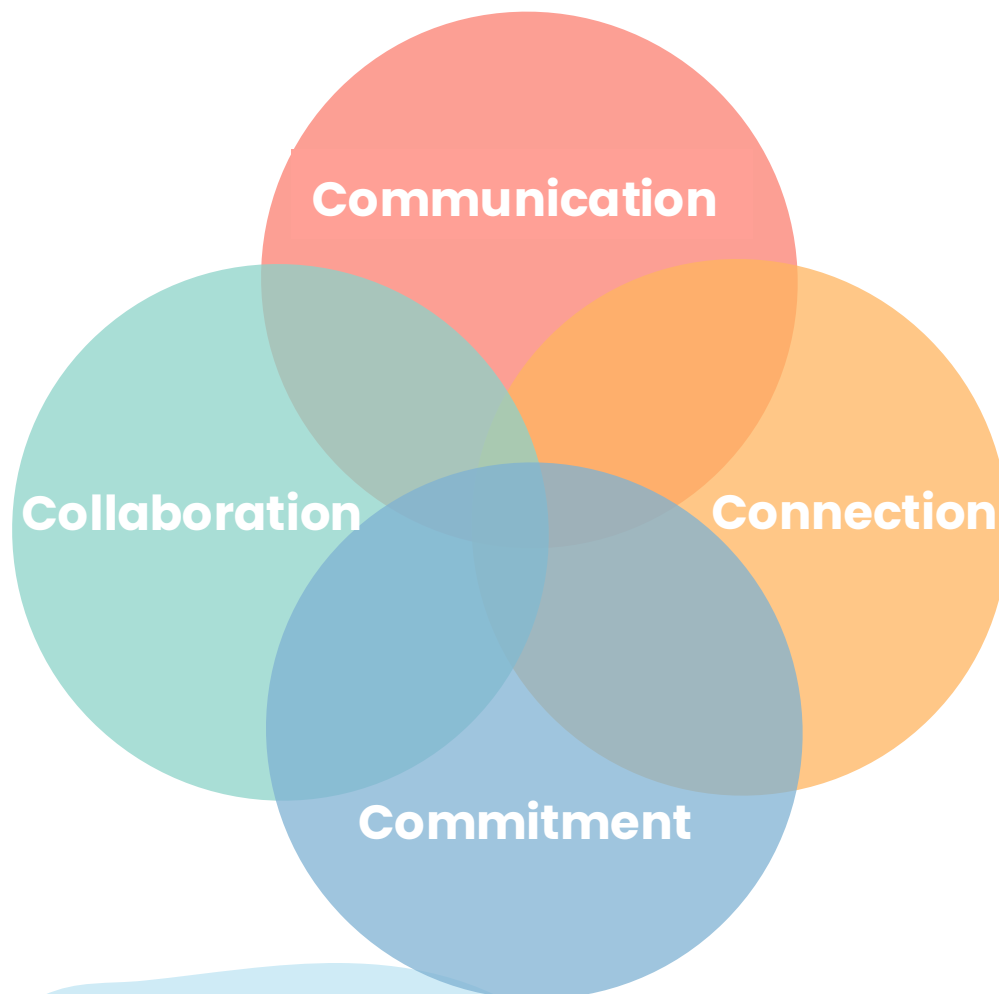
Thematic Findings

Clear Purpose

Students need clarity on the purpose of the Teams community, how to use it effectively and how it complements other university platforms (e.g. Canvas).

Inclusive Participation

Students need a safe space to seek support, respond to posts and feel their contributions are valued.



Equitable Access

Students need easy access to staff and peers as part of a community alongside in-person opportunities to support wellbeing and programme engagement.

Sustained Engagement

Teams space requires sustained staff and student commitment that is reciprocal and visible to develop as an active community.

References

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Thank You



Reimi Sivalingam
reimala.sivalingam@manchester.ac.uk

Ruitong Wang
ruitong.wang-2@student.manchester.ac.uk

Hamza Badenjiki
hamza.badenjiki@manchester.ac.uk

Sarah Hatherill
sarah.hatherill@manchester.ac.uk

Barbara Waters
barbara.waters@manchester.ac.uk

Scott Midson
scott.midson@manchester.ac.uk

Aurelie Le normand
Aurelie.Lenormand@manchester.ac.uk

Nooch Kuasirikun
nooch.kuasirikun@manchester.ac.uk