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| “Communicating with a graduate assistant has helped me continue to manage my studies and help me find new ways of prioritising workload.” “Really enjoy the study skills sessions, it refreshes your mind and different questions always come up.” “I think the most helpful thing was the GAs. Really reassuring and approachable.”100% of students surveyed would recommend the 1 to 1 sessions | Weekly tutorials cover a vast array of topics, all included within the module assignments | Tutorials increased critical thinking and student’s confidence | Cohort have averaged roughly 5% higher than previous years| Availability across a number of platforms allows for proactive communication | Function for chat or video calls allows students to communicate in the way they feel comfortableGraduate AssistantsUHI InvernessW | **Goal:** To enhance and improve the delivery of both courses, and provide personalised and degree specific help to students who need it.**Submitted by:** Norman Wilson, Amy Hendon, and Bethany Needham **Project:** To create a Graduate Assistant role to improve the student experience of the BSc Psychology Degree and MSc Psychology Conversion degree, by aiding students in their studies and provide help, guidance, and information. **Benefit to:** Students on BSc and MSc Psychology Courses

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| ****Key message: Improve the student experience and enhance communication****  |
| To provide assistance to students in a group or individual setting |
| Work proactively within the team and alongside staff |
| Maintain a high level of academic delivery and communicate with students on various platforms |
| Develop projects to support the delivery of the degree |
| Deliver workshops to students and provide 1 to 1 support across both courses |
| **Project delivery**  |  |
| Following the creation of the role, interviews were held in February 2021 and the successful candidates began in March 2021 |
| The role was shaped to fit each semester’s needs and the cohort of students |
| 1 to 1 support provided help with deadlines, assignment planning, time management, and other worries/concerns |
| Weekly sessions discussed a vast array of academic skills |
| Increase in the amount of student/staff contact allowed students to discuss any concerns or problems and decreased social isolation |
| Weekly tutorials encouraged students to think critically about each theory, topic or research to aid in confidence and academic ability |

**Impact:**  Results from short surveys and general feedback indicate the impact has been across three areas; communication, connection, and confidence. There is a consistently high percentage of students with a declared disability on both courses, so tailored, personalised help that is degree specific has been highly beneficial. |