

What is the experience of UK based higher education careers advisers (without a specialist international role) supporting international students?

▶ Gemma Witts



Background

- ▶ Importance of international students studying in the UK
- ▶ Personal experience of supporting international students
- ▶ Increased demand on career services
- ▶ Continuing political challenges
- ▶ Perceived lack of training/support
- ▶ Are others feeling the same?



Literature review



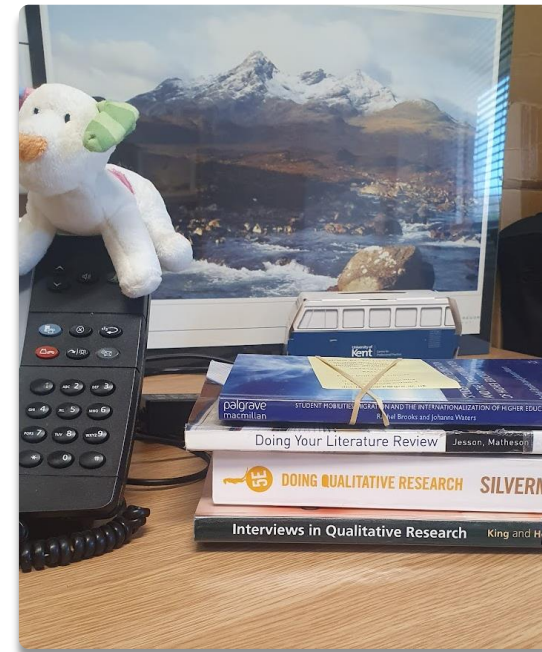
International students



Careers services



Approaches to
guidance



Gaps



Understanding of career decision making and career outcomes



How careers advisers approach guidance with international students



How careers advisers experience their role working with international students

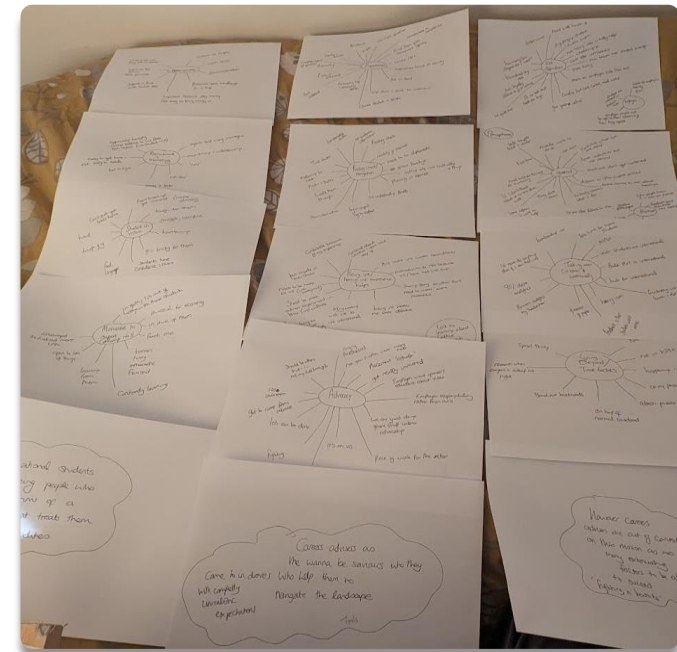
Methodology and analysis

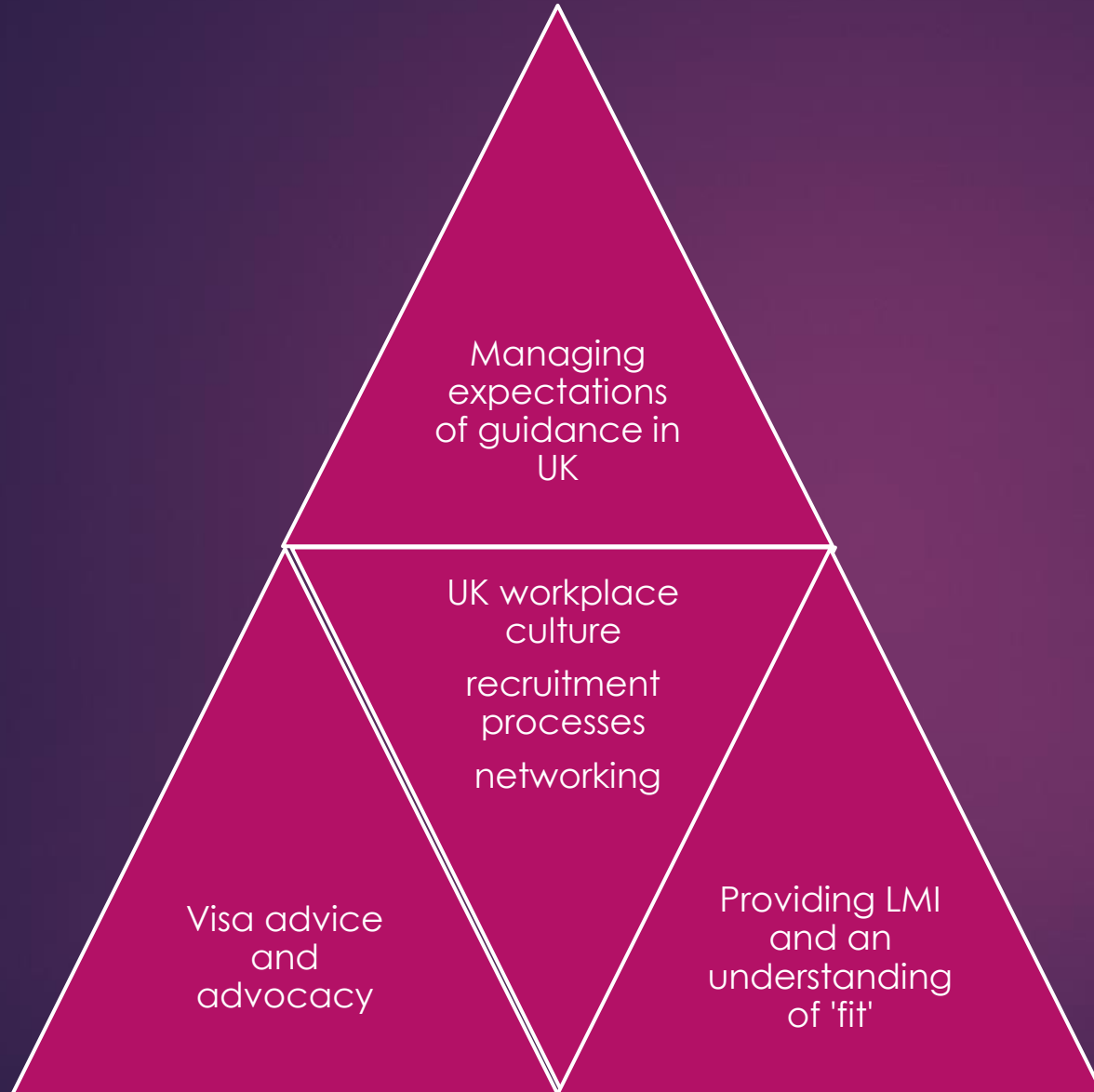
- ▶ Qualitative
- ▶ Experiential
- ▶ Semi structured interviews via Teams
- ▶ Reflexive thematic analysis



Findings

- ▶ It's not fair and something should be done about it
- ▶ We're overwhelmed but of course we'll help
- ▶ We're on our own in this
- ▶ We'll be your navigators





Navigational model of guidance

Other implications for practice

- ▶ Findings highlight need for:
- ▶ further development of navigational model of guidance
- ▶ training and support
- ▶ university departments to work more closely together
- ▶ renewed focus on metrics



What else did I learn?

- ▶ The importance of prioritising wellbeing
- ▶ Being aware of the bigger picture but concentrate on the small steps
- ▶ Use a reference management system
- ▶ Developing critical thinking goes beyond the dissertation
- ▶ The process of becoming a researcher is as important as the output
- ▶ Dissertation completion is only the beginning!

