What is the experience of UK based HE careers advisers supporting international students?

Student: Gemma Witts

Supervisor: Dr Rosie Alexander





This masters dissertation aims to give careers advisers a voice to share their experiences and inform the practice of careers advisers and those supporting them, including careers service managers and those with managerial and policy making responsibility for employability at universities.

Background

605,130 international students studying in the UK (HESA, 2022)

- International students study in the UK to enhance their employability (UUK, 2020)
- 71% are seeking UK work experience (HEPI, 2021)
- However they can face barriers in both UK and home labour markets (UKCISA, 2020)
- Only 28% of careers services feel they can meet international student demand (UUK, 2020)
- Only 52% of international students think their university adequately supports their career needs (HEPI, 2021)





Methodology

- Six semi-structured interviews with careers advisers working in UK universities
- Advisers will support international students but not have an international specific remit
- Data will be analysed using Reflexive
 Thematic Analysis
 (Braun and Clarke, 2021)
- Questions will be centered around experiences, feelings, challenges, expectations, approaches and perceptions