

Faith and Student Success: Summary.

Project Aims

The relative lack of studies investigating the experiences of university students with a faith/religion inspired this project to explore the extent to which having a faith can influence a student's success and what factors could affect this.

This included:

1. Where and how faith/belief is recognised by the university.
2. What commitments to recognising and supporting faiths/belief are carried out in institutional practice.
3. How students experience faith-based support and the effectiveness of it.

Faiths and religion of registered students at the University of Leeds in 2020/21



Out of a total of 34,731 registered students, 12,691 had declared they identified with a religion or faith. This equates to 42% of the respondents.

The Plan

In order to gain an insight on the experiences of students, the project was split into two main research focuses: an interview focus and a documentary analysis focus. The flowchart below outlines the method of project.

"I just really want a us to evolve to a space where We can talk about these things and and not be frightened of difference in opinion"

"The university is an accepting environment and you will be appreciated and listened to and be loved no matter what religion you are, whether you have one or not"

"(The university chaplaincy) has become better established and more integrated around the institution."

Documentary Analysis

Summarising the university website to evaluate information availability regarding faith.

Interviewing students and staff to determine how (if at all) faith/religion plays a role in student success.

Interviews

Future Steps

A table of short and long term recommendations to improve the current system/policies.

Recommendations

From the research findings, multiple suggestions on how to improve the current system was created. The main recommendation areas are outlined below, however the full list is included within the written report.



Student Focus



Diversity and Equality
Issues



Policy Accessibility
and Application



Accommodating
Religious Needs



Creating an Inclusive
Environment on
Campus



Department
Focus