

First steps in building an evidence-base for postgraduate personal tutoring; exploring diversity, challenges and solutions.

The Medway Learning And Teaching Festival 2023

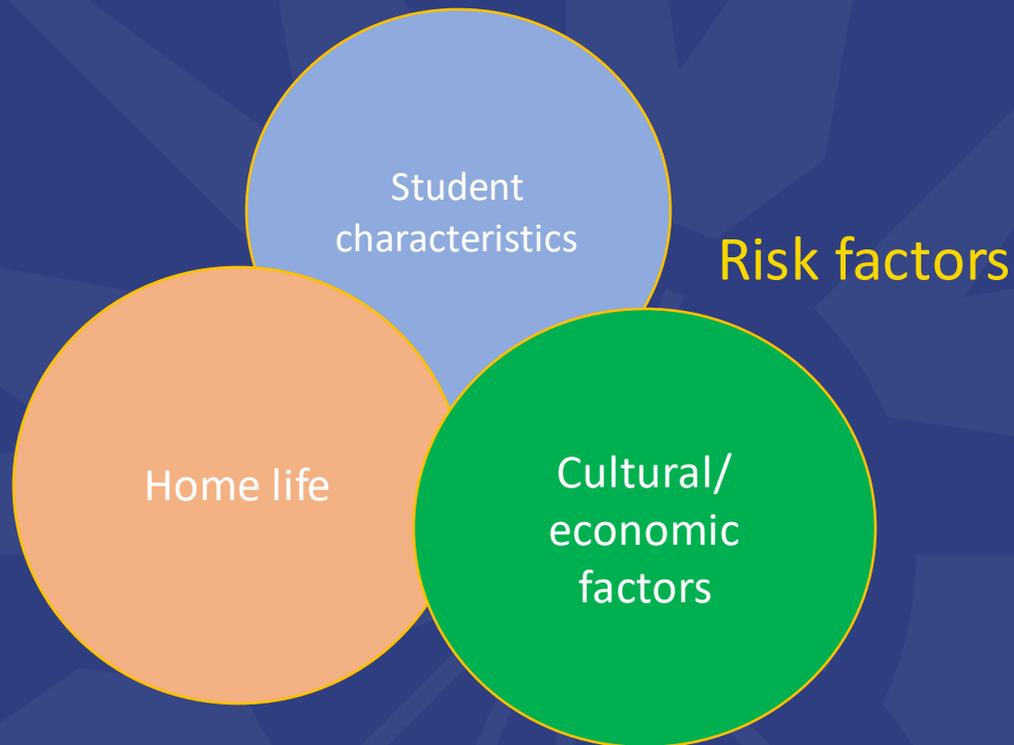
Dr Eve Rapley & Dr Rachel George,
Academic & Learning Enhancement, ILS



Today's workshop

- Brief introduction to personal tutoring
- Discuss characteristics and needs of students on taught postgraduate degrees
- Share PG personal tutoring practices, challenges and solutions
- Begin to consider how PG students' diverse backgrounds and needs can be accommodated and supported by personal tutoring.

The value of personal tutoring



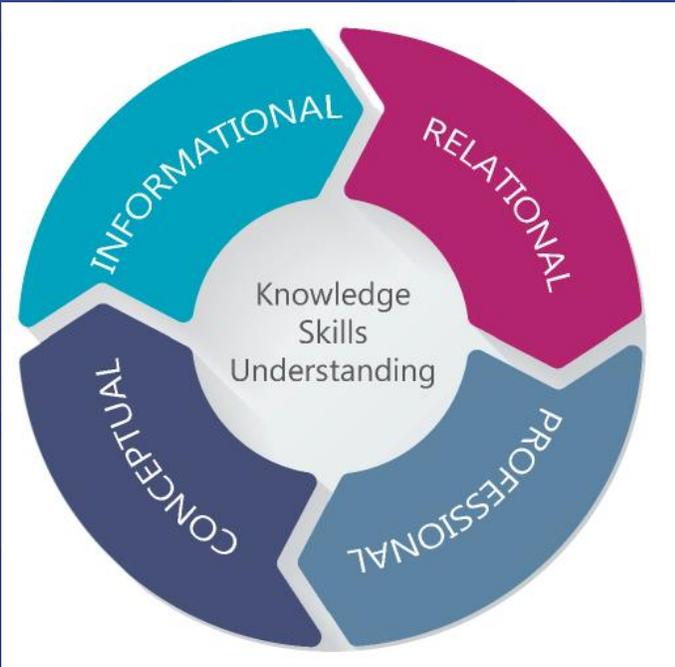
- “Academic advising is integral to fulfilling the teaching and learning mission of higher education” (cited in Gordon, Habley, and Grites, 2008, p. 523).
- Facilitates transitions, accessibility, belonging
- “At risk” students experience barriers to success (Lochtie et al, 2018).
- “Effective personal tutoring can be the difference between dropping out or staying; between suffering a crisis or achieving full academic or professional potential” (Rapley and Talbot, 2022).

Postgraduate students



- A smooth transition into PG study?
- May appear well-prepared, but many report anxiety (Bamber et al, 2017)
- Compounded by intense nature of PG study, with little time to adapt to new systems
- Risk factors likely
- “The overlooked cohort.” Coneyworth et al (2020)
- From 2020-21 rapid increase (+10% in UK PG enrolments (Unitegroup, 2022); +45% in international PG (Universities UK, 2022))

Gap in the literature



- Growing research base on personal tutoring, but PG students relatively neglected
- UK Advising and Tutoring (UKAT)
- PG SIG to develop expertise and resources tailored to the needs of this important and growing group of students.
- “The diverse backgrounds of today’s students mean that the role of the personal tutor is more important than ever.” (Swain, 2008)

Discussion points

- What are key challenges and risk factors for postgraduate students in your context?
- How are you currently addressing these issues in your personal tutoring for postgraduates? Are you aware of any innovative solutions/approaches?
- Are you working with postgraduate to understand what works for them and to design personal tutoring around their needs? How might this be done?

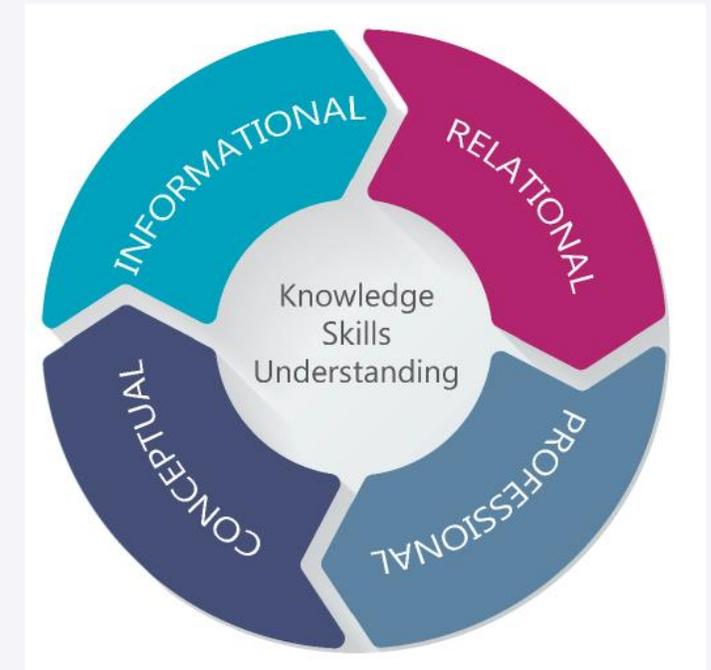
Personal tutoring possibilities

Personal tutoring models (Earwaker, 1992)

- Pastoral
- Curriculum
- Professional
- Hybrid

Key dimensions

- Location (online, on campus)
- Staffing (academic and/or professional services)
- Responsibility (named 1-1 individual or team?)



Key takeaways



Thank you

Contact r.george@gre.ac.uk at Greenwich

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