

Practical Recipes for Student Success – guidance for staff responding to the Black, Minority and Ethnic (BME) student attainment gap (work in progress)

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There is no Magic Bullet

“A simple explanation for the attainment and satisfaction gap of Black students does not exist...it is a complex issue with a range of causal factors” (Ref: ‘Race for Equality: a report on the experiences of black students in Higher and Further Education’, NUS 2011).

Taking a post-racial perspective

Moving from cultural sensitivity to contextual sensitivity (Ref: Dr. Gurnam Singh, Principal Lecturer in Social Work and National Teaching Fellow, University of Coventry, Presentation on ‘BME Attainment: interventions and next steps’ given at the University of Derby 2013).



The Context

- The proportion of UK-domiciled BME students across the sector increased from 14.9% in 2003/4 to 18.4% in 2010/11.
- The attainment gap is highest in England, where 69.9% of white qualifiers obtained a ‘good degree’ (1st or 2i) compared to 50.9% of BME qualifiers – a 19% gap in attainment.

(Ref: ECU Equality – HE: Statistical Report 2012 Part 2: Students)