

# Supporting Final Year Students as a Graduate Teaching Assistant

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**Graduate Teaching Assistant**



# Drawing Upon My Experiences

- **Undergraduate Student:**
  - Peer mentee/mentor
  - Final Year Project
- **Professional Support Role:**
  - ABS/LHS
  - International/Home/EU students
  - Secretary for SSCC/Representations Boards
- **GTA/PhD Student:**
  - NSS Focus Groups (Final Year)
  - Stats Workshops (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)
  - Professional Development (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)



# Undergraduate Student Experiences:

- Placement year time out:
  - Campus changes
- General study skills
- Using library services
- Time management
- Final year project
- Statistics!



# Programme Administrator Experiences:

- **Students in crisis/jeopardy:**
  - Poor study skills (e.g. revision techniques/time management)
  - Not usually accessed help/support
  - Often too late to help them by then
- **Students not benefiting from available support:**
  - Unsure of services
  - No retention of information from library sessions
  - Library sessions not recorded

# GTA/PhD Student Observations:

## Common Issues:

- Too many emails
- Time management
- FYP/statistics
- Referencing
- Literature/systematic review (confusing)
- Placement year students (confidence/campus changes)
- Study skills sessions (retention, timing)
- Feedback e.g., SSCC
- Available software for personal PC's
- Study spaces (improper use, alternatives?)

“Our free time is quite precious”

“There are so many different ways of giving feedback but is anyone actually going to listen”

“Going from 2<sup>nd</sup> to final year and having to balance the whole world”

“I love smart search”



# Areas to Target:

## ➤ **Referencing:**

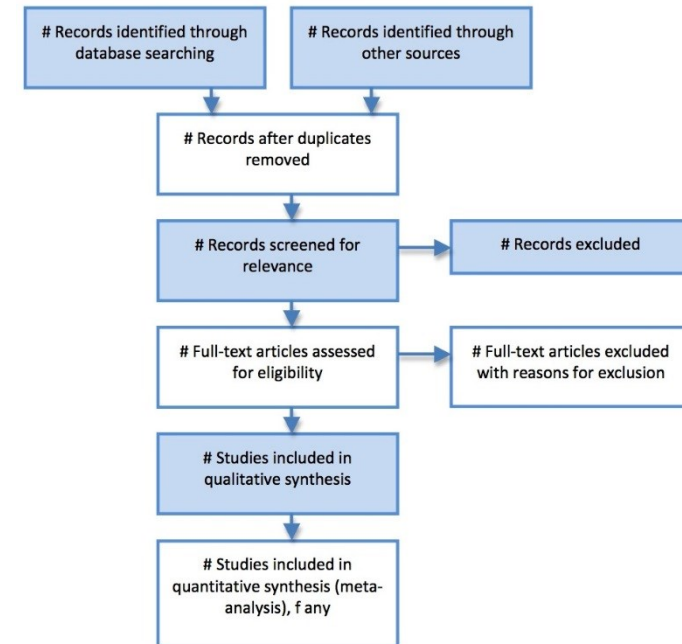
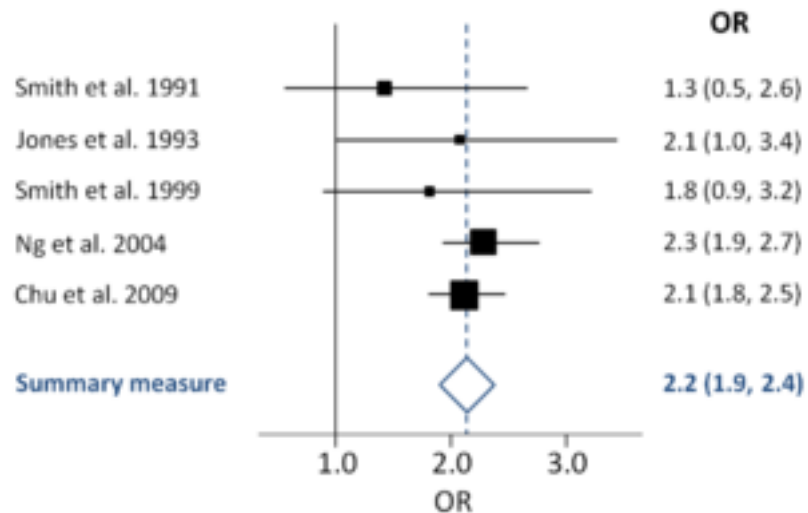
- Refresher session (P)
- Endnote session
- First few weeks of term

## ➤ **Literature Review:**

- Conduct, write & structure one
- Read, write & evaluating scientific literature
- How to incorporate scientific literature into work
- Literature searches

# Scientific Writing:

- **Systematic review:**
  - Lit review vs systematic review?
  - PRISMA flow diagram
  - Forest plot (meta analysis)



# General Study Skills requiring Additional Support:

- Article searches
- Inter-library loans
- Creating PowerPoints
- Presenting skills
- Time management
- Exam revision
- Academic writing – Report/Essay



# Additional Thoughts to Consider:

- Aston Replay for library sessions
- Using own material for support sessions
- BB quizzes to consolidate learning
- Available software for personal PC's
- Imposter syndrome – hard to ask for support
- How to feedback to students effectively
- Keeping placement students 'in the loop'
- How to communicate information/updates
- User-friendly systems – convenience (app launcher, printing)



Any Questions?

