

Data Analysis

Focus Group 1

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Data Analysis

Step 1: Constant comparative method: coding

Codes:

1 = question 1

A/b = part a and b of one question if applicable (ie. 1a1)

1.1 = Question 1 insight 1

Underlining = agreement, may have differences in wording

Pink = same insight provided, however for differing reasons

Bold = new reason on a same insight

Then, Produce an analytical summary (finding) for each focus group question

Step 2: Identify themes and categories

Colour coded

Reflection: Whilst I was proceeding with the coding on question two, I realised that I needed to capture more dimensions. I thought of Costello's (2003, p.4), approach and implemented his use of bold and underlining to capture agreement and differences. In addition I introduced colour to highlight additional dimensions.

Question 1

Would you like to connect with Master students from other courses? If so, why?

Q1a: Would you like to connect with Master students from other courses?
Q1b: If so, why?

Note

Question Q1a was important to be answered by each participant.

Participant Number	Q1a: Would you like to connect with MA students from other	Q1b: If so, why?
1	Yes	To build connections that might be useful in my <u>future</u> . (1b1)
2	Yes	Interdisciplinary experiences (1b2)/ <u>job opportunities</u> (1b3)
3	Yes	Meet someone from a course I would have preferred to study at (at MA womenswear) (1b4)
4	Yes	Not sure (1b5)
5	Yes	To learn from others (1b6)
6	Yes	-
7	Yes	-

Moderator (me): Would anyone like to add a new perspective or answer? - group - "no"

Coding

1b1 - Insight 1: To build connections that might be useful in my future.

1b2 - Insight 2: To have interdisciplinary experiences

1b3 - Insight 3: For future job opportunities

1b4 - Insight 4: Meet someone from a course where I would have preferred to study at, but wasn't accepted.

1b5 - Insight 5: Not sure/ I don't know

1b6 - Insight 6: To learn from others

Analytic summary: Finding 1

All participants were interested to connect with Master students from other courses. Their reasons were overall very different from one another, with one contextual overlap; the interest in building connections with their future situation in mind (1b1,1b3).

Question 2

Q2a: Which of your current connections are meaningful and valuable to you?

Q2b: Why?

With whom
number
connections are
meaningful and
valuable to you
and why

Participant Number	Q2a: Which of your current connections are meaningful and valuable to you?	Q2b: Why?
1	To other MA students (2a1)	We helped each other on a group task (unit: Collab challenge)(2b1)
2	To my room mate (2a2)	Support (2b2) and stress release (2b3)
3	To my classmates (2a3)	They are supporting me (2b2)
4	To my friend in Manchester (2a4)	Emotional support (2b2) for not needing to be scared in this foreign country
5	To other MA students (2a1)	For speaking English (2b4)
6	To a paid guide (2a5)	Helping me navigate Landon (2b5)
7	-	-

Moderator (me): Would anyone like to add a new perspective or answer? - group - no

Coding

2a1 - Insight 1: To other MA students

2a2 - Insight 2: To my room mate

2a3 - Insight 3: To my classmates

2a4 - Insight 4: To my friend in Manchester

2a5 - Insight 5: To a paid guide

2b1 - Insight 1: We helped each other on a group task

2b2 - Insight 2: Support

2b3 - Insight 3: Stress release

2b4 - Insight 4: For speaking English

2b5 - Insight 5: For helping me navigate Landon

Analytic summary: Finding 2

About half of the students' answers were specific, such as a paid guide, a room mate or a friend in Manchester. The other half, provided more generalised groups of people, such as other MA students and classmates. The reasons provided were either practical, such as needing help with orientating themselves in a new environment or improving English-speaking skills, or emotional, such as stress release and emotional support.

Reflection: This question was uniquely answered by the students in respect to their current, new situation as an international student settling in to London life, a new home, routine and student life. Although I clearly pointed out that the 'current meaningful connections' can mean both here and anywhere else in the world, ie.back home in China. The outcome was thus different from what I expected as I was thinking that they would include their family and best friends in their response.

Question 3

Which kind of relationships would you like to make during your studies

Q3: Which kind of relationships would you like to make during your studies?

Participant Number	Q3: Which kind of relationships would you like to make during your studies?	
1	Make friends (3.1)	
2	Connecting with people from different paths (3.2) to maybe build a business together in the	
3	Also interested in business opportunities (agrees with 2) (3.3)	
4	Make friends (3.1), business partners (3.3)	
5	Find a relationship/ husband (3.4)	
6	Find a relationship/ husband (3.4)	
7	Find a relationship/ husband (3.4)	

Moderator (me): Would anyone like to add a new perspective or answer? - group - no

Coding

- 3.1 - Insight 1: Make friends
- 3.2 - Insight 2: Connecting with people from different paths
- 3.3 - Insight 3: build a business together in the future
- 3.4 - Insight 4: Find a relationship/ husband

Analytic summary: Finding 3

About half of the students are interested in meeting people to run a business with in the future. These people could be other MA students, but not reduced to that group. The other half seems to value relationships most, with their responses highlight hoping to make lasting friendships or finding a partner. One participant explicitly expressed that both work and private relationships are thought out.

Reflection: I haven't methodically captured how many people agreed with what has already been said, I have only asked continuously before moving on to the next question if anyone liked to add a new perspective or answer to what has already been mentioned.

Question 4

Thinking about your desired University experience on your Masters course overall, what would make you feel connected to the student community?

Participant Number	Thinking about your desired University experience on your Masters course overall, what would make you feel connected to the student community?	(Other thoughts that were of importance to them)
1	I only know half of the class at the moment, I would like to meet more people (4.1)	Agrees with 2 and explains the cultural importance of the value placed in keeping a positive distance
2	Respect from others, helping each other (4.2)	It's important to keep a positive distance
3	Values group work, wants to engage in projects or workshops (4.3)	
4	Connecting with others (4.2)	I (the moderator) could have asked the participant to expand on
5	Interested in extra-curricular activities (4.2)	
6		
7		

Moderator (me): Would anyone like to add a new perspective or answer? - group - no

Coding

4.1 - Insight 1: Meeting more people

4.2 - Insight 2: Connecting with, respecting and helping each other

4.3 - Insight 3: Meeting people through group activities

Analytic summary: Finding 4

Overall, the students would feel more connected to the student community by connecting with or knowing more people. Some have expanded their answer with ideas of where they would like to make these connections, for example by attending workshops or participating in extra-curricular activities. Some have provided more information about the quality of the connections they have made or envision to make, such as being respected, reciprocal support and connecting with one another on a personal level.

Reflection: The question suggests that there is something that would make them feel connected to a student community. Therefore it is likely that the students would try and find an answer even if there might be nothing in particular that would make them feel part of a student community. Should the question be rephrased to “Is there something that would make you feel part of a community?” Or “Are you part of a community at the moment and what is it that makes you feel that way?”

Question 5

What does being part of a student community mean to you?

Q5: What does being part of a student community mean to you?

	What does being part of a student community mean to you?	Other thoughts that were of importance to them by answering the question
1	When I'm known and I know others, then I feel being part of a student community (5.1)	
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

Moderator (me): I recognise that you have incorporated the answer to this questions during the previous questions. Would anyone like to add a new perspective or answer? - group - no

Coding

5.1 - Insight 1: Being known and knowing others makes me feel part of a student community

Analytic summary: Finding 5

The answer to this last question has only prompted one participant to sum up his perspective, namely that being known and knowing others makes me feel part of a student community

Reflection: This last question became obsolete as the students addressed it within their answer to the previous question.