“You’re one of us now, you can do this!”
Exploring belonging, (wellbeing) and academic success among students in Psychology and Veterinary Medicine.

Kasia Banas, Jessie Paterson, Ewan Bottomley, Sarah Bentley, Katie Greenaway
Key questions

What are the characteristics of high performing students?

What can we do to improve outcomes for all our students?
Conceptual model

- Psychological variables
- Behaviour
- Outcomes
Conceptual model

Psychological variables
- individual
- social

Behaviour
- approaches to learning

Outcomes
- performance (mark)
- satisfaction
Key claim

“The success (or otherwise) of the educational process is contingent upon educational participants seeing themselves as sharing social identity (a sense of ‘us’)” Haslam, 2017
Why is identification important?

- Identification predicts school engagement (Bizumic et al., 2009)
- Identification predicts wellbeing and academic satisfaction (Greenaway et al., 2017)
- Strongly identified students are more likely to conform with university and/or discipline norms (Smyth et al., 2017)
Our model

Identification

Beliefs about intelligence

Approaches to learning

Course marks

Satisfaction
“I identify with the Psychology department”

“I feel close to other Psychology students”

“I like spending time with Psychology students”

Identification

Beliefs about intelligence

“No matter who you are, you can change your intelligence”

Deep and surface learning (Biggs, 1978)

“I find working on my studies gives me a feeling of deep personal satisfaction”
“My aim is to complete my studies whilst doing as little work as possible” (RE)

Course marks

Final mark for Psychology 1A

- MCQ exam
- Essay
- Study Skills
- Attendance and participation
Satisfaction

“I enjoy my Psychology course work”

“The support I get from the lecturers is good”
What did we find?

Identification

Beliefs about intelligence

Approaches to learning

Course marks
What did we find?

- Identification
- Beliefs about intelligence
- Approaches to learning
- Satisfaction
Where next?

- More longitudinal data
- Larger sample from the Vet School
- Towards an intervention
Thank you!