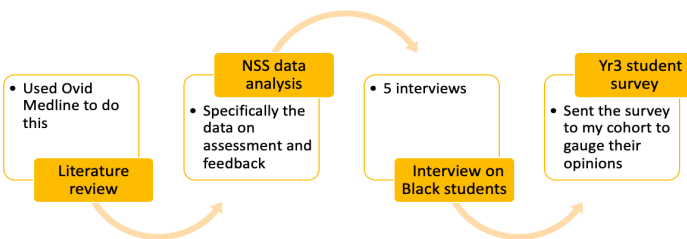


## Background:

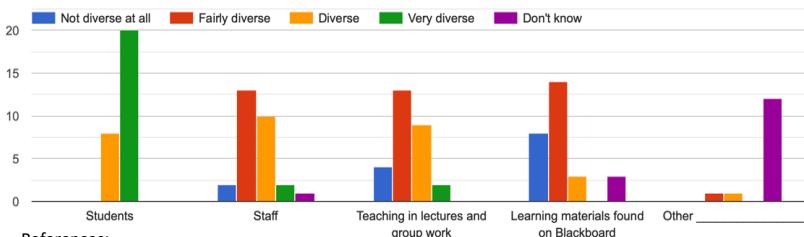
In the UK, Black and Ethnic Minority medical students made up 43.3% of Standard Entry Medicine in 2020<sup>1</sup>. This group of students **consistently perform lower** than their White counterparts in the OSCEs and Written exams<sup>2</sup>. They also **experience less satisfaction** with these assessments overall. This Student Selected Component delves deeper into Leicester Medical School students' opinions on the above. It also goes further to explore possible reasons behind the lack of NSS data for Black students. (The National Student Survey is a questionnaire completed at the end of a student's final year to assess their satisfaction with their degree).

## Methodology:



## Results – Yr3 survey:

Is UoL diverse in terms of...



## References:

- Higher Education Statistics Agency Limited (2023) *Number of students and change over time*, Oracle Analytics. Available at: [https://reports.gmc-uk.org/analytics/saw.dll?Dashboard&PortalPath=%2Fshared%2FNTS\\_LTD%2F\\_portal%2FNTS&Page=Entrant+Report&P1=dashboard&Action=Navigate&ViewState=cfgp8k6q3g1bof7a1Im8jvkv8q&P16=NavRuleDefault&NavFromViewID=d%3Adashboard~p%3A3fuq1qn19b4fbk8h](https://reports.gmc-uk.org/analytics/saw.dll?Dashboard&PortalPath=%2Fshared%2FNTS_LTD%2F_portal%2FNTS&Page=Entrant+Report&P1=dashboard&Action=Navigate&ViewState=cfgp8k6q3g1bof7a1Im8jvkv8q&P16=NavRuleDefault&NavFromViewID=d%3Adashboard~p%3A3fuq1qn19b4fbk8h) (Accessed: 14 August 2023).
- Woolf, K. et al. (2011) 'The mediators of minority ethnic underperformance in Final Medical School Examinations', *British Journal of Educational Psychology*, 83(1), pp. 135–159. doi:10.1111/j.2044-8279.2011.02060.x.
- SOWEMIMO, A. (2024) 'We need new metrics', in *Divided: Racism, medicine and why we need to decolonise healthcare*. S.I.: WELLCOME COLLECTION, pp. 273–274.

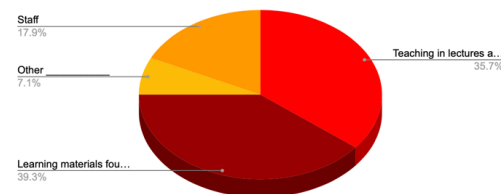
## Current student perspective on racial inclusion in Medical School Assessments

Sethara Alwis

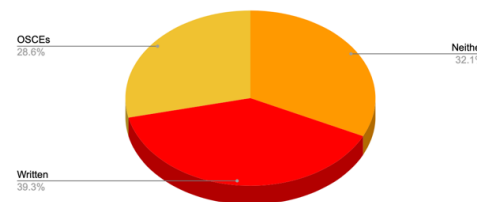
Medical Student, Year 3, dsa12@student.le.ac.uk

The data for category “other” was not expanded on when chosen by Yr3 students .

What aspects of Leicester Medical School would benefit from greater diversity?



In your view which exam is more racially inclusive?



Why does the NSS data show a satisfaction gap?

- Unconscious bias for OSCE examiners
- Lack of representation in questions and within staff and students
- “Poor understanding of [BAME] cultures” (Yr3 student)
- People of colour have less resources, time and opportunity

## Results – interviews:

Themes:

- Lack of evidence of change as a result of the NSS data can discourage students from responding
- Questions are subjective and too open
  - E.g. describing feedback as “timely” and comments as “helpful”
- Being grouped as BAME ignores individuals' experiences as “we don't have the exact same culture, we don't have the exact same experiences” (Yr5 student)
- Unclear as to where those of mixed heritage are classed

Suggestions:

- 2020 SARS-CoV-2 pandemic so clinicians had less time to teach which could have contributed towards increasing the satisfaction gap
- Have Black OSCE examiners as well
- Give students an option to elaborate answers for the NSS

## Discussion:

The points below encapsulate themes across the interviews and the survey.

- Majority chose written as the most racially inclusive because it is **easier to remain anonymous** with the written exams and there is less representation in the OSCE questions
- It was highlighted that students experience **unconscious bias from OSCE examiners**
- Most students believe that including race in the stem is appropriate only if race is a risk factor for a particular condition. However, it is also agreed that it is “unnecessary if the underlying intention is a stereotypical picture” (Yr3 student)
- Students expressed that they had to ensure they resembled their White peers before their OSCEs<sup>3</sup>. Black students have changed their hair so they look “less threatening” (Yr5 student)

## Recommendation:

- Discuss findings with the assessment team
- Carry out an opinion survey with simulated patients
- Compare similar data with other universities