

# Peer participatory research: engaging student midwives in research projects with the URB@N scheme

## What is the innovation?

URB@N stands for 'Undergraduate research bursary at Northampton'.

It is a scheme offering opportunities for current undergraduate students to participate in a pedagogic research project taking place at the University of Northampton (UoN).

The premise behind URB@N is facilitating opportunities for staff and students to work together *in partnership* to explore learning and teaching issues for the benefit of the student experience.

## The Subject:

### Experiences of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Student Midwives

The BSc (Hons) Midwifery programme at UoN strives to attract a diverse range of applicants in order to meet the widening participation agenda and reflect the diversity of the service users who will be accessing maternity services.

It is anticipated that this research will lead to enhanced cultural awareness and competence in the recruitment process as well as the content and delivery of the BSc (Hons) Midwifery programme at a time when the curriculum is under review.



## The Student Experience:

1. A £500 bursary to support involvement in the research project
2. Valuable work experience through participation in 'real world' research
3. Make a meaningful contribution to their university and the experience of fellow students
4. Staff and students working and learning together to facilitate educational enhancement
5. Enhancing student engagement in Higher Education through partnership working
6. Developing practical research skills to enhance understanding of current academic programme and application to future practice

Student researcher

**Kia Beeby-Parnham**

is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year midwifery student who self-identifies as BAME

## The Staff Experience:

1. The scheme can provide staff with the valuable resource they might require in order to undertake such research.
2. student involvement in scholarly research can add valuable additional insight to the student voice not easily accessed using other means
3. Peer participatory research allows for barriers to participation to be removed by mitigating against perceived power imbalances on the part of potential participants.

**John Pendleton: Senior Lecturer (Midwifery)**

John.Pendleton@northampton.ac.uk

**Dr Claire Clews: Lead Midwife for Education and Professional Lead (Midwifery)**

Claire.Clews@northampton.ac.uk