The surprising truth about who engages in a non-assessed, credit-free undergraduate conference and what they present
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**AIM**
- Discuss who engaged in an extra-curricular undergraduate research conference over the past 4 years.
- Share insights into the common and surprising characteristics of those who engage.

**BENEFITS OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH**
- Develop discipline specific skills [1, 2, 3, 4].
- Provide a transformative space to explore disciplinarity [5, 6].
- Undergraduate research can have a positive impact on research and teaching roles [7].

**THE CONFERENCE**
The JADE Student Learning Undergraduate Conference, established June 2016, known to students as JSLUG.
- Annual, unthemed, non-assessed conference open to all undergraduate students.
- 30-50 papers, 70-100 delegates.

**PRESENTERS AND DELEGATES: UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL**
- The above shows engagement across all levels of undergraduate study, including integrated 4-year Masters programmes.

**ENGAGING UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS**
- This conference was an effective vehicle in engaging underrepresented groups above institutional benchmarks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>JSLUG Average (%)</th>
<th>% of students at Keele</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disclosed disability</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAME ethnicity</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-EU international students</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLAR 1</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THEME**
The above shows engagement across all levels of undergraduate study, including integrated 4-year Masters programmes.

**NUMBER OF PRESENTATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Oral presentations</th>
<th>Poster presentations</th>
<th>Lightning talks</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONCLUSIONS**
This project found that UR conferences can:
- Recruit ‘hard to reach’ students at disproportionate levels.
- Engage all years of undergraduate study in an extracurricular research initiative.
- Encourage engagement in opportunities beyond the formal curriculum.

**REFERENCES**