Educational research

What is your current level of interest in undertaking an educational research Inspire (or other!) project?

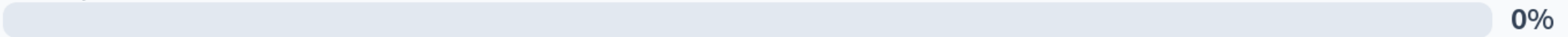I'm already doing or planning to do one

0%

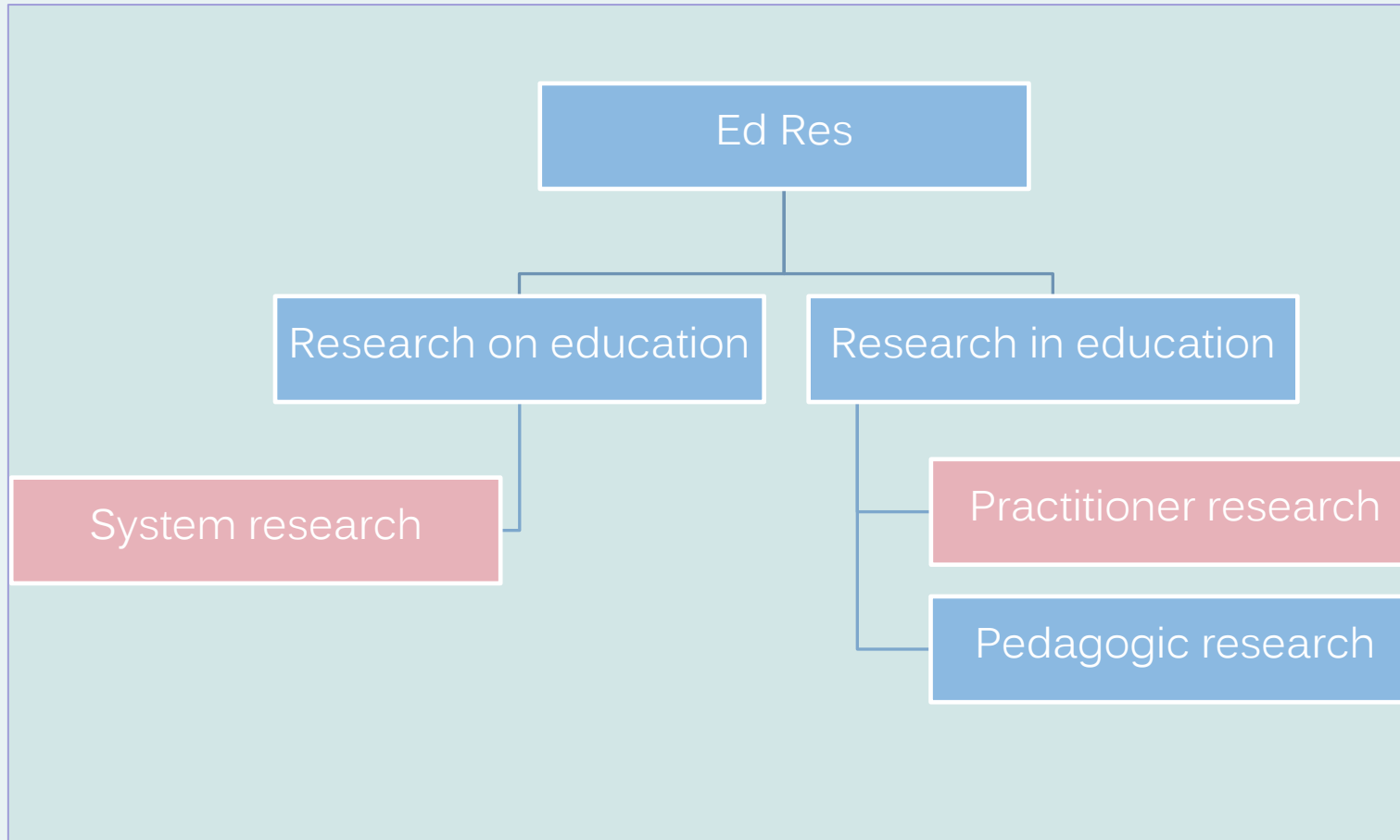I'm considering it

0%

I'm open to it

0%

You'd have to convince me

0%

Not a chance

0%

What is educational research and is it useful?

Examines education and learning processes, and personal attributes, interactions, organisations and institutions (AERA).

Impact from local practice (e.g. a teacher evaluating the efficacy of a teaching innovation) to global understanding and approaches (e.g. CBVE)

Not just technical learning

- Learning skill development

- Mentoring and coaching

- Admissions and outreach

- EDI issues

- Transitions

- Student (and staff!) health

- Personal support and interventions

- Technology for learning

- Immersive learning

- Curricular development

- Assessment and feedback

- Teacher development

- Ethical education

- Sustainability

I could go on and on!

Big questions in vet/med/dental education research

1. Things that affect all schools, and/or the whole/across professions.

2. Things that are caused by a major extrinsic change or result from a shift in understanding.

3. Things which might require a major rethink of how we do things

What do you think could be some Big Questions in vet/med/dental education research right now?

Nobody has responded yet.

Hang tight! Responses are coming in.

Educational research and Inspire studentships

- Both research on and research in education can be undertaken

Perfectionism in veterinary students

Peer academic mentor scheme

- Analyse previously obtained data, or generate new

- Develop (+/- evaluate) novel resources

LN model

Eyeball model

Echo model

What does it look like? You name it!

- On campus
- From home
- Hybrid
- Wet projects
- Dry projects
- Joint projects
- Inter-school collabs

Making models in the lab and testing them

Recording and creating interactive videos

Making AI patients

Using big data to answer curricular questions

Conducting focus groups and interviews
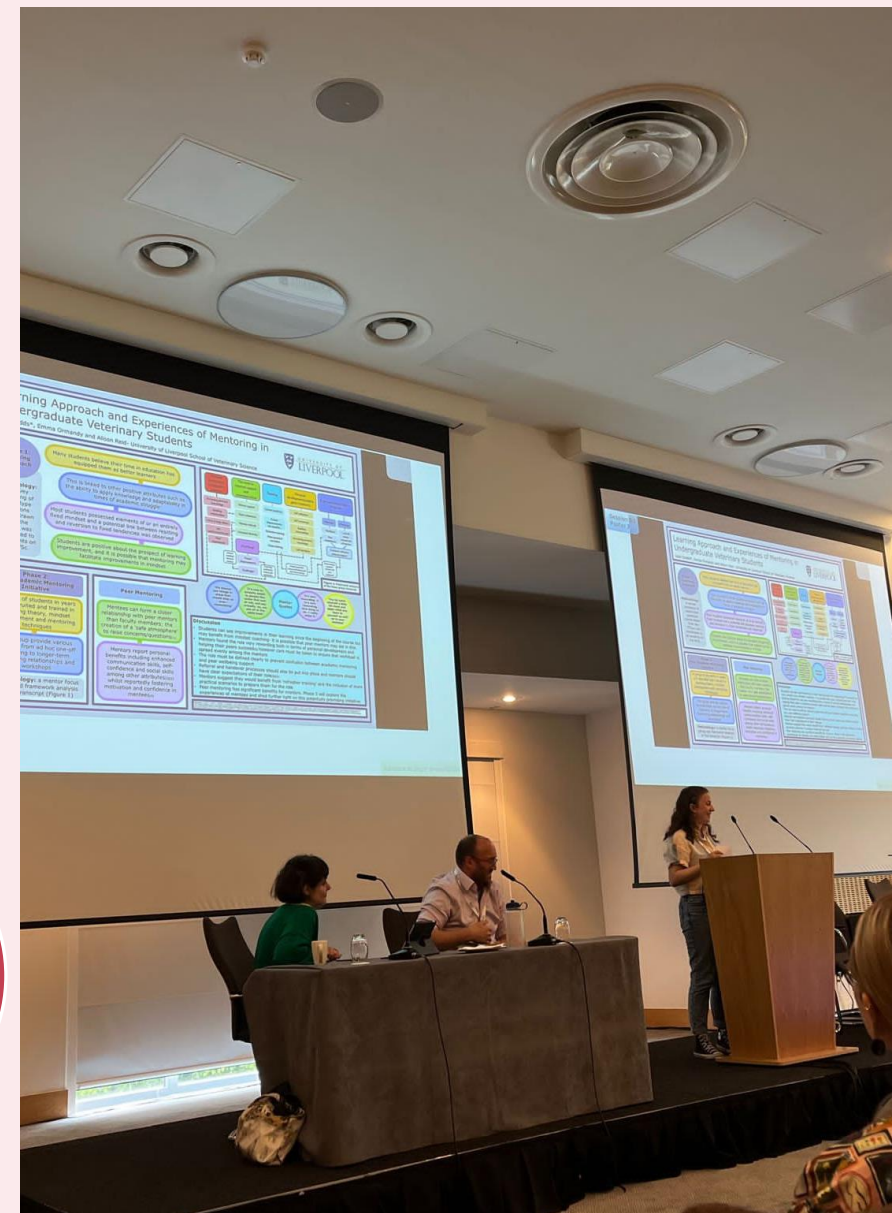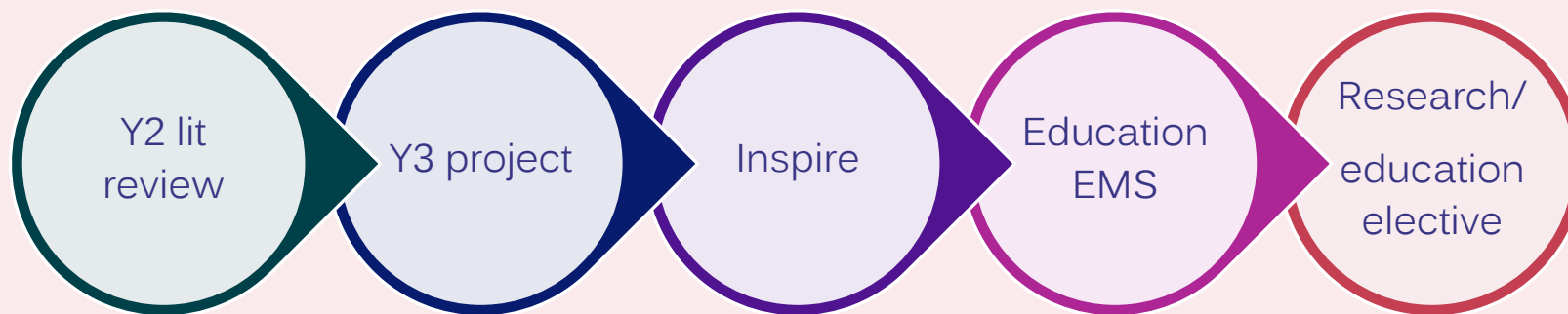
Analysing quantitative/ qualitative data

Designing VR/AR resources

Enhancing outreach to improve diversity

Rich opportunities

You're living this experience, so you're in a great place to research it, and it doesn't have to stop with the summer studentship.

Y2 lit review → Y3 project → Inspire → Education EMS → Research/ education elective

Planning your project

- What's available?

- What are you curious about?

- Is there a gap you are looking to fill or a question you want to answer?

- Look at the existing literature – there's no point reinventing the wheel.

- Think about your methods. You need to be able to answer your question/address your gap.

Common limitations

- It's the summer – are student participants available?

- Equipment (including IT/technology) availability and funding for this

- Data storage and security – you can't keep it on your own device!

Planning your project - methods

- What question do you want to answer and why?

- If you're planning to gather new data – what kind and how will you analyse it?

- We as scientists tend to choose quantitative methods over qualitative or try to force things to *look* quantitative. Is that the best way to find out what you want to know (it might be!)?

- Do your due diligence – if you're using qualitative methods, that doesn't mean it's fluffy. If anything, you need to work harder to ensure rigour.

A thought

- It's easy for studies to ask for student/ staff opinion/strength of feeling, then claim that as evidence of efficacy of whatever is being evaluated. Is that always appropriate as a lone measure?

Planning your project – ethical considerations

Emotionally taxing issues especially focus group/interviews

How do you select - selection bias if people you know are likely to sign up

Consider advantage and disadvantage for non participants and controls

Access for SpLDs and other disabilities

Power dynamic in terms of consent

What things do you think you need to consider when using students as a participant group?

- In general?

- To test a teaching innovation or similar?

- To explore a health, wellbeing or EDI subject?

Planning your project – impact and KE

- What outcomes are you hoping for?

  - A local change?

  - To inform the existing body of work for a broader impact?

  - To contribute to an ongoing research theme and pursue it further?

- How will you disseminate your findings?

  - Inspire conference, obvs.

  - In house sharing to generate local impact?

  - Other conferences?

  - Write it up for publication?

Plan your own educational research project

Testing ability of pre-vet students to work out first year exam questions from first principles. - linking into ability to cope with uncertainty and unfamiliar situations, self-efficacy

Longitudinal study following students through vet school and into careers monitoring mental health (depression and anxiety scales) at key points

Competency and confidence in clinical skills on placements vs in the lab

EMS - mixed methods approach to explore different experiences in the three different EMS structures over past few years.

EMS - mixed methods approach comparing experiences across schools with different requirements

Admissions - why some people get in and some don't; reducing the impact of different opportunities. Mixed methods.

Neurodivergence and differences in approaches to learning - increasing flexibility in learning and assessment

Discuss with those around you.

What would you do with a 3- or 6-week studentship?

Could it have multidisciplinary impact?

Take 5-10 mins then I'll collate your ideas!

How has this session affected your view of undertaking an educational research Inspire (or other!) project?

I was already keen and I still am!

0%

I'm more likely to consider doing an educational research project than before

0%

I'm still not sure it's for me

0%

I'm still pretty sure I don't want to do it

0%

I'm less likely to consider doing an educational research project than before!

0%

Thank you! Questions?