Postgraduate transitional learning: a personalized approach to statistical readiness

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**Abstract:**
Curtin aims to be an international leader in research and education by 2030. As we embrace students from around the globe, it can be challenging, in a large class, to ensure the readiness of all students.

In a postgraduate quantitative research methods unit, an online 20-item multiple-choice diagnostic quiz was implemented through Blackboard in Orientation week. The quiz was set at the expected entry level of statistics competency. Upon completion, students were informed of their score and given written explanations of the answers online. Students whose scores indicated lack of readiness were recommended to attend interactive preparatory/refresher statistical workshops. The two-hour workshops were facilitated by a staff member from The Learning Centre, who was available to provide additional assistance outside of scheduled class times. All written materials, recordings of the workshops and a frequently-asked-questions sheet, were integrated into the unit via Blackboard. Results from students’ self-rated survey showed that this model is effective in facilitating engagement, building confidence, and establishing the baseline knowledge and skills needed for successful transition to postgraduate studies.