The influence of a single semester of 3rd year study on students’ intentions for a postgraduate research degree - what difference does a semester make?

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Abstract

This paper examines the effect of a single semester of third year study on the postgraduate research degree intentions of psychology and non-psychology students enrolled in a third year Psychology of Organisations university course at a city university. The students responded to a survey at the beginning and again at the end of the semester, producing 60 useable responses. Results indicate that only very slight changes occurred in students’ intentions to embark on postgraduate research degree over the course of a single third year semester. Students neither changed their preferences for the type of Masters course in which they intended to enrol, nor did they change the degree to which they intended to study either a combined Masters/PhD or research-only PhD degree. The implications for academics who are seeking postgraduate research students are discussed.