



Nottingham
Law School
Nottingham Trent University

The motivations and experiences of international law students

Prof. Jane Ching and Dr Azhin Omer

© Nottingham Trent University 2023

Qualitative data

(Online Surveys & Semi-structured Interviews)



Qualitative Data Analysis

- Thematic Data Analysis:

“involves a constant moving back and forward between the entire data set, the coded extracts of data that you are analysing, and the analysis of the data that you are producing.” (Braun & Clarke: 2006)

- Semantic codes



Theme 1. Motivation

Survey responses

- Employability
- Experience
- Independence/freedom
- New environment/lifestyle
- New perspectives
- Quality of education
- Recognition of degree
- Status

Interview responses

LLM Students

- More exposure and job opportunities
- Visa
- Language
- Safer place to study

LLB Students:

- Improved earnings at home
- Common law system
- Enhanced academic skills
- High ranked universities
- Tuition fees

• ***“Back in the home country, you’re considered very educated”*** (interview nr.3)

• ***“close to my country”*** (interview nr.4)

“I found that the UK is one of the global educators, like all of the best universities and best professors are in the UK, and if I study in the UK, it will give me the best education...” (interviewee nr. 3 / LLB Student)



Theme 2: Career aspiration

Survey responses

- Limited or no experience of it (yet)
- Qualifications required
- Very competitive
- ***“The practice over here is not to just charge the client but also to deliver justice at the same time”***

Interview responses

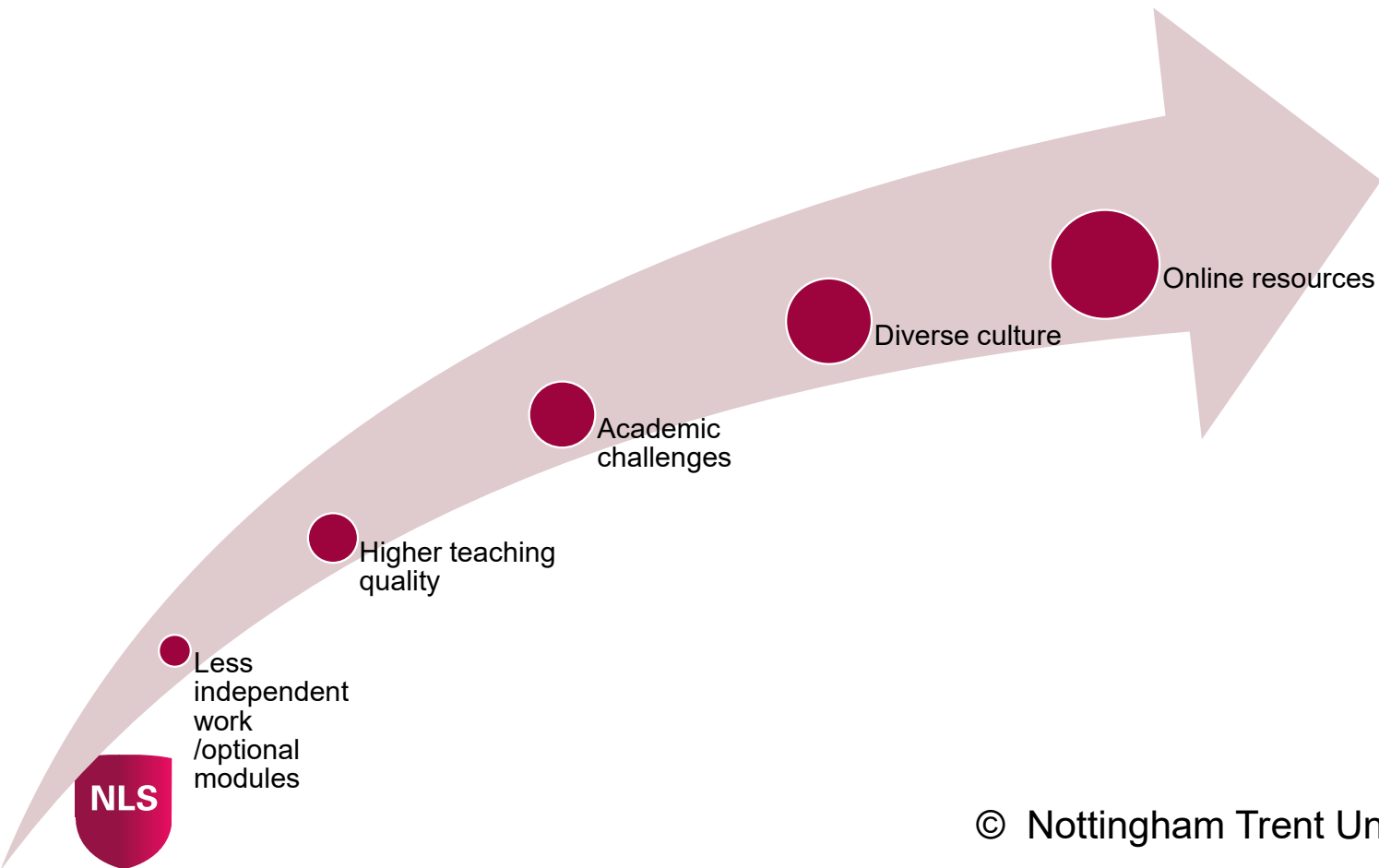
LLM Students

- LPC/SQE in the UK
- PhD in the UK
- Work in the UK (short term)
- Return to home country (Long term)

LLB Student

- Undecided
- LPC/SQE in the UK
- Vacation Scheme/ Training contract
- Return to home country (long term)
- Lawyer in UK
- Practice law in USA

Theme 3: Preconception (Interview Data)



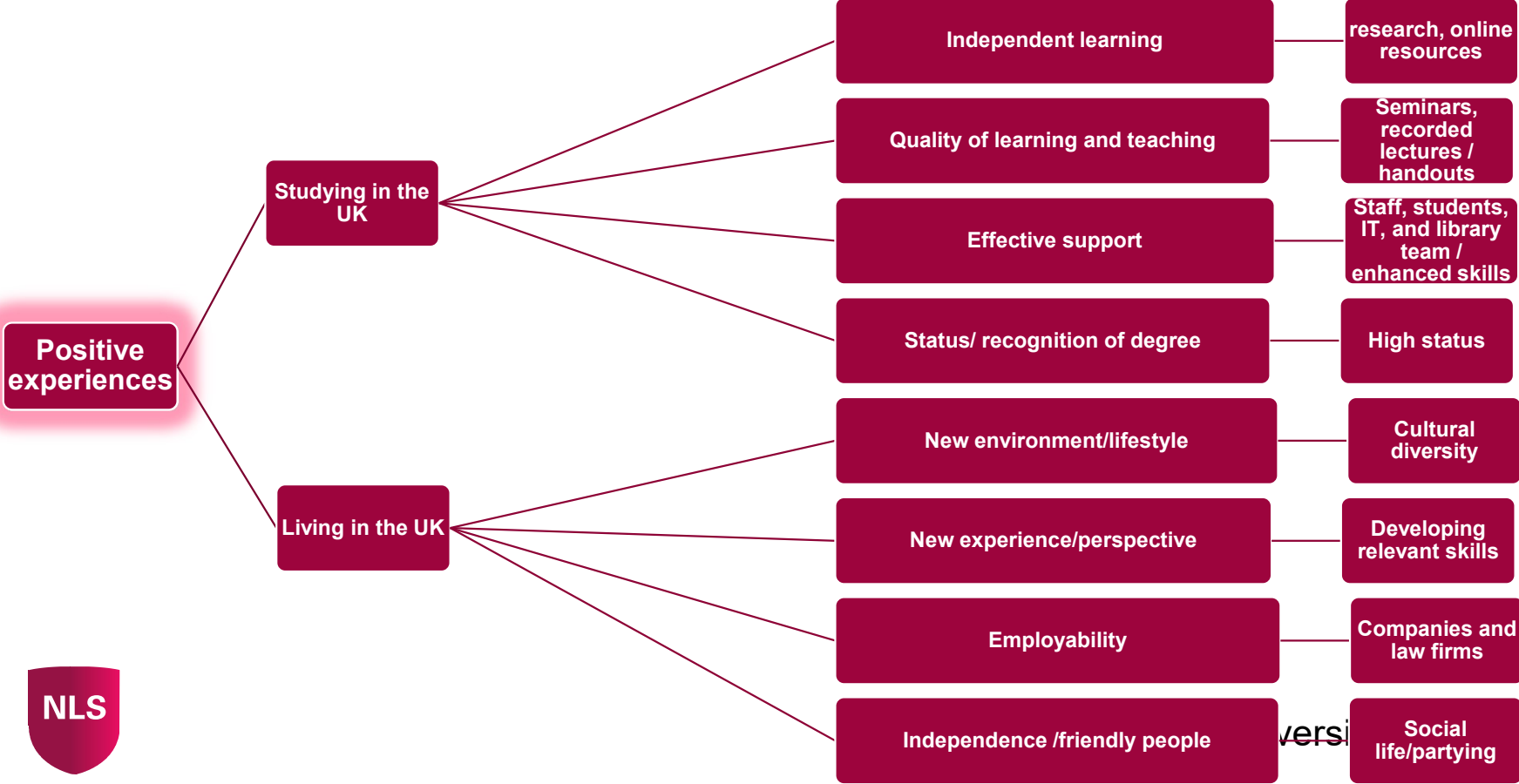
“... it was a bit surprising coming from an environment where everything – where you can have access to your timetable, it’s probably going to be posted manually in the faculty, so it’s actually a new process entirely actually for me. And quite surprising...”
(interviewee nr.1 / LLM Student)



“... before I came here, I always thought university was gonna be with optional modules. But when I came here, I know oh, there’s some compulsory modules I have to do. ...” (interviewee nr.4 / LLB Student)

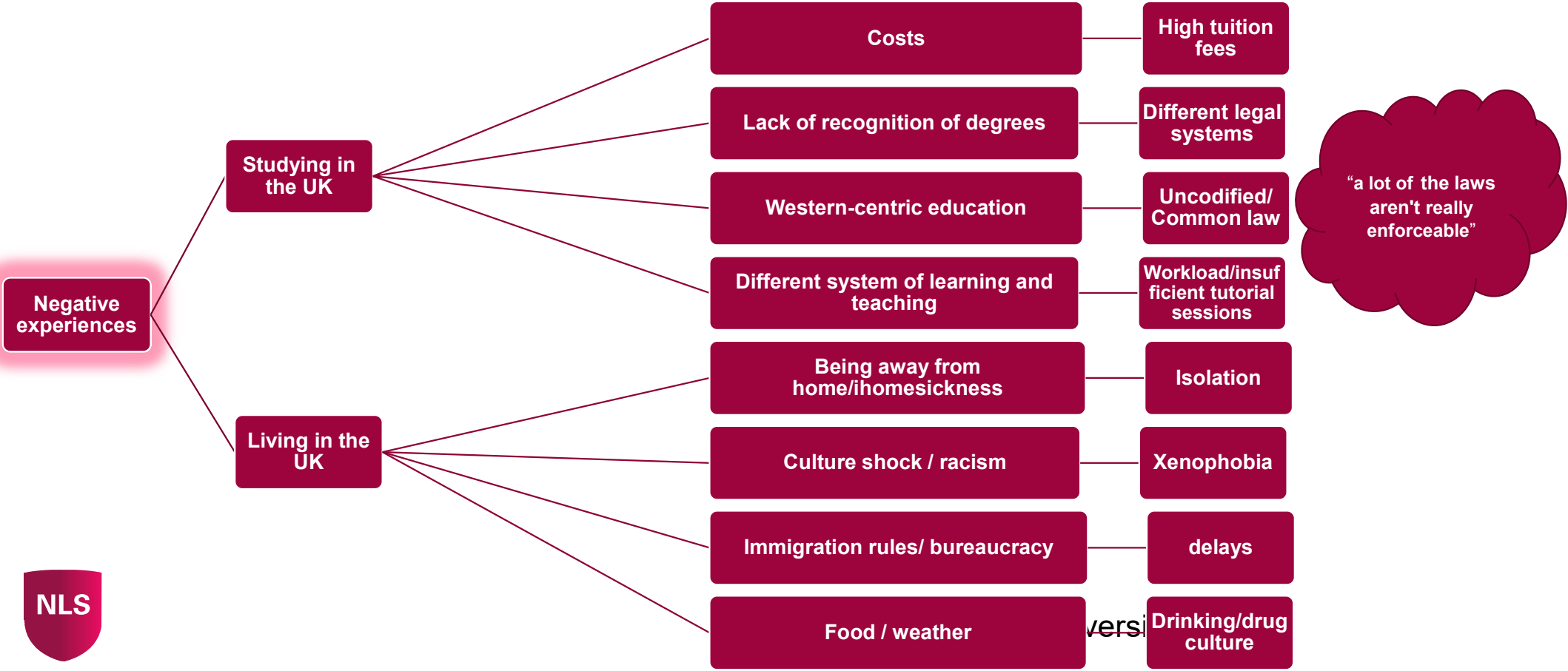


Theme 4: experiences



vers

Theme 4: experiences



vers

For the future (Survey data)

What I will take home

- Academic writing/skills
- Concepts and perspectives
- Democratic principles
- Teaching and research practices
- And:
 - *“The way of teaching here, where the lecturers do not treat us as merely students but as adults who will be going into the working field and training us to prepare for anything that may come in the outside world”*
 - “values and soft skills such as patience, empathy, emotional intelligence, tenacity and dedication”

What the UK can learn from my country

- Avoid discrimination against non-home students
- Connections between law and nature, medicine, religion
- How to be more concise
- Knowledge of law and procedure in my country
- Work ethic
- And:
 - **“A lot can be lost in the round about descriptiveness of the English mind”**
 - **“It is more organised. Nearly everything is more organised in Austria and Germany...”**



US criteria mirrored in England and Wales?

- Networking
- Specialist understanding that is underdeveloped at home
- New forms of reasoning and pedagogy
- Employability (the halo)
- cultural and social experience

- **Tuition fees?**



*“I couldn’t express how much I am curious about this project because it seems like it is not something that attracts so many people’s attention, especially in this field, because **all we are talking about is usually the professionalism and how we are going to qualify in the field, instead of how we as international students really think about the law studies here.** So I am very grateful to you and your team.”* (Interviewee nr.2 / LLM Student)



© Nottingham Trent University 2020





Nottingham
Law School
Nottingham Trent University

Thank you