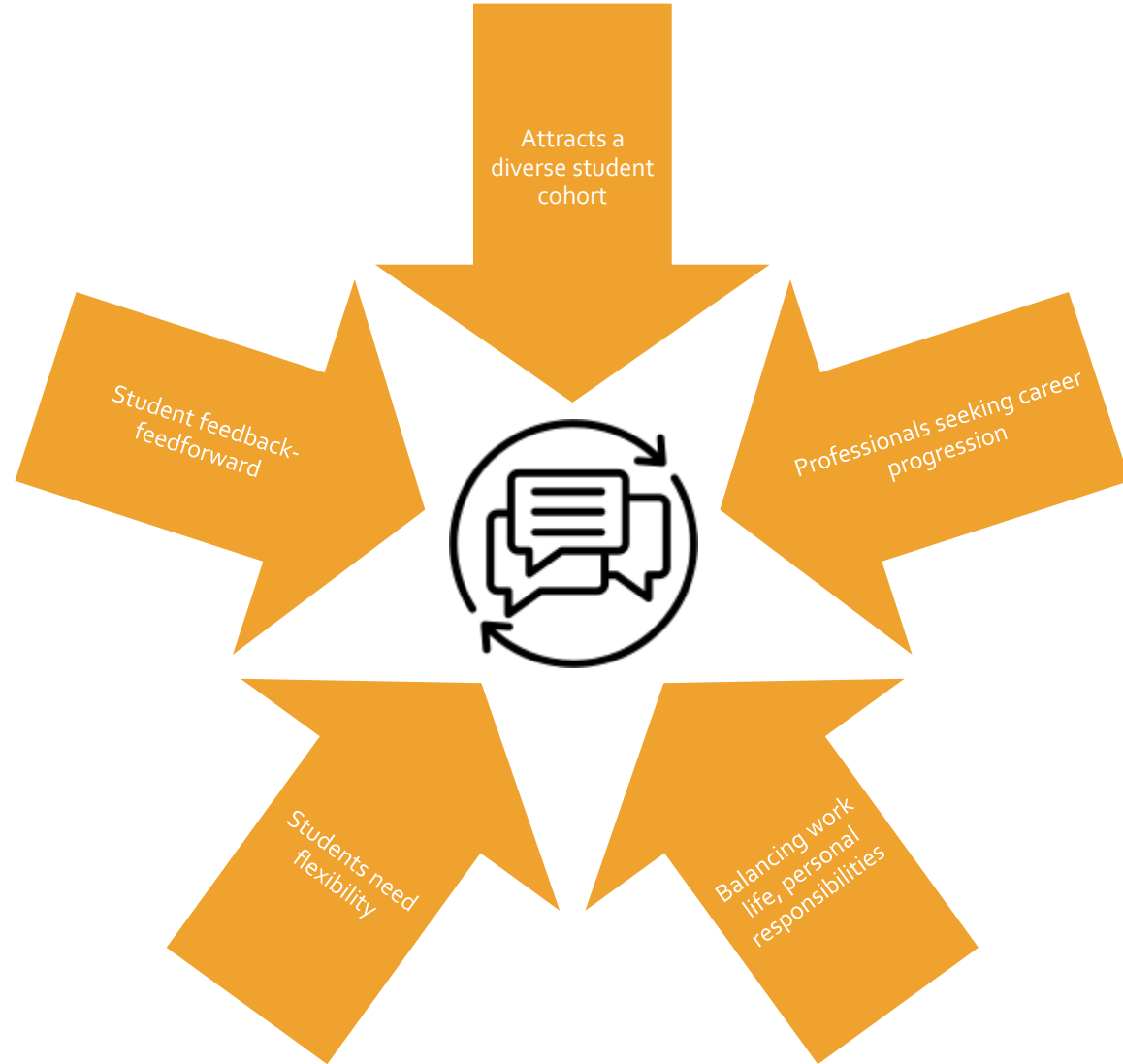


Beyond the Dissertation: using student voice to inform best practice guidance for diversified, taught, final year MSc

Susan Morrow, Daisy Bao, Ellie Devenish-Nelson, Andre Phillips, Harriet Thatcher, Kirstin Stuart James



Feedback- feedforward



Diversified Pathways To Masters

Surgical Sciences



Biodiversity, Wildlife and Ecosystem Health



3 Package Approach



- **Package 1** – Scoping Review



- **Package 2** – Focus Groups



- **Package 3**- Co-create Best Practice Guidelines

Package 1

Scoping Review



From 1687 15 included for review

Emerging Concepts

- Dissertation supervision approaches
- Degree attainment and EDI factors
- Barriers and enablers in academic trajectory
- Accessibility of PG
- Motivation, attrition, progression
- Skills development
- Student engagement in curriculum transformation

Gap in knowledge

- Only 1 paper identified pathways into PGT (not through) and limited guidance. Next steps into Package 2 and 3.

Choice in Pathway

Package 2 Focus Groups



Surgical Sciences: *"I also chose dissertation basically because that was the whole reason why I chose to do a master's degree. I wanted to experience doing a research."*

BWEH: *"the reason why I picked the alternative pathway is because I was trying to move into a different area where background is not in biodiversity."*

BWEH: *"I just wanted also a little bit of flexibility and able to manage my time well."*

Surgical Sciences: *"I wanted to learn how to be able to build a project from the ground up. And secondly I wanted to know how I'll be able to work independently."*

Improvements to Pathway

Package 2 Focus Groups



Surgical Sciences: *"I think that the best support that I got through all of my masters was from the university in general, from tutors and advisors"*

Surgical Sciences: *"maybe some kind of feedback loops maybe in the first year students. Might have an option to already have some rough idea about the third year."*

Surgical Sciences: *"I really had wish that we could have had like a live session. one-on-one would probably some of the tutors to be able to explain the process"*

Outcomes to Pathway

Package 2 Focus Groups



BWEH: *"I've used the materials I created in that project in my job so many times since then. It ended up being the better choice for me."*

Surgical Sciences: *"I'm really glad I undertook the dissertation project so that I've been able to be like 2 conference, abstract, present tuition.... a great experience for me and opened up a lot of avenues for me doing some of those conferences where I met people who could really affect my career and"*

Surgical Sciences: *"just feel more confident after doing a research project"*

Package 2

Focus Groups



Preliminary Findings:

Decisions are pragmatic and shaped by feasibility

Dissertation route is associated with academic trajectory

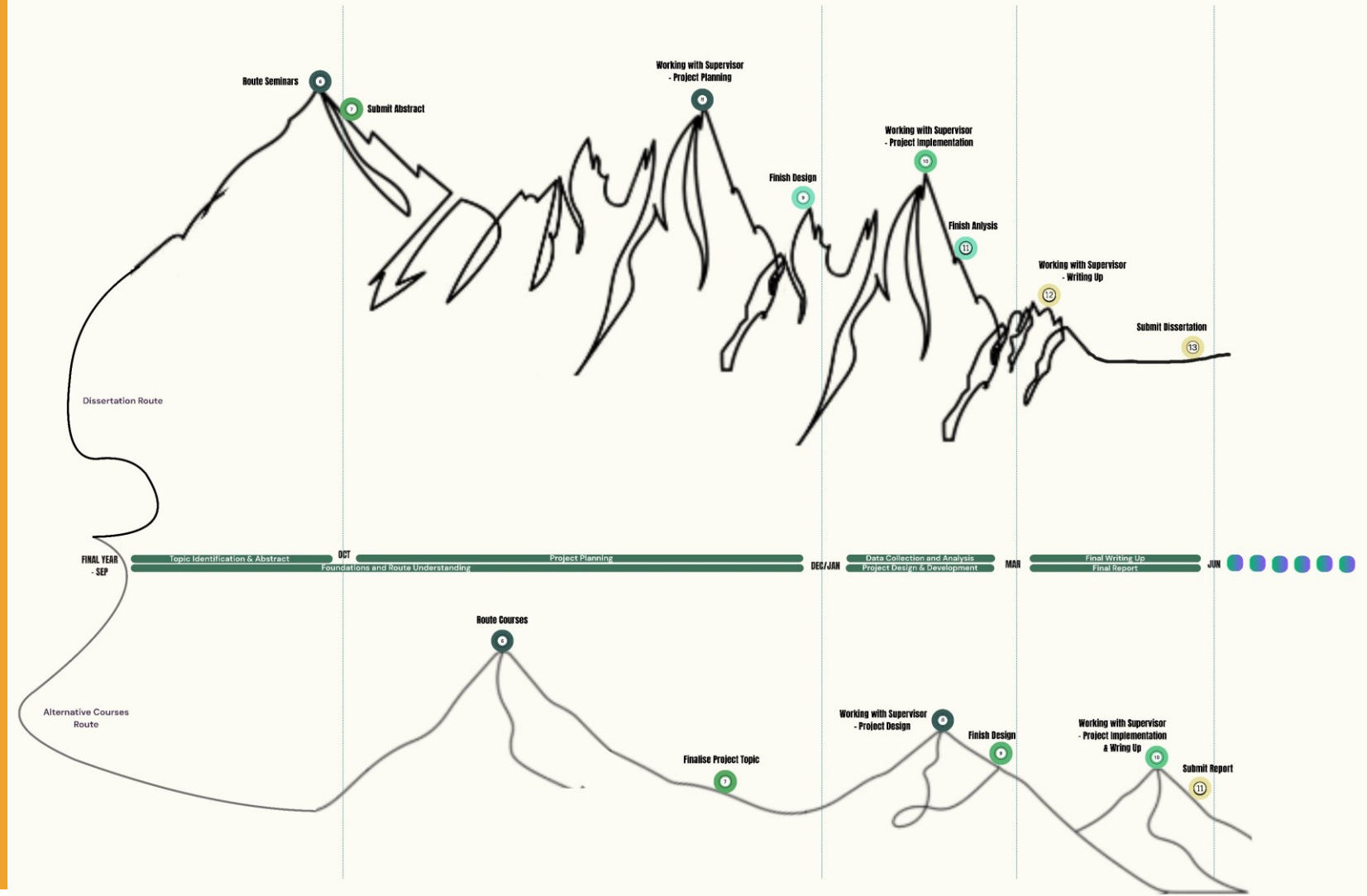
Alternative pathway is valued for flexibility and usable outputs.

Legitimacy anxiety

Students want better scaffolding and support in decision making

Package 3

Co-create Best Practice Guidelines

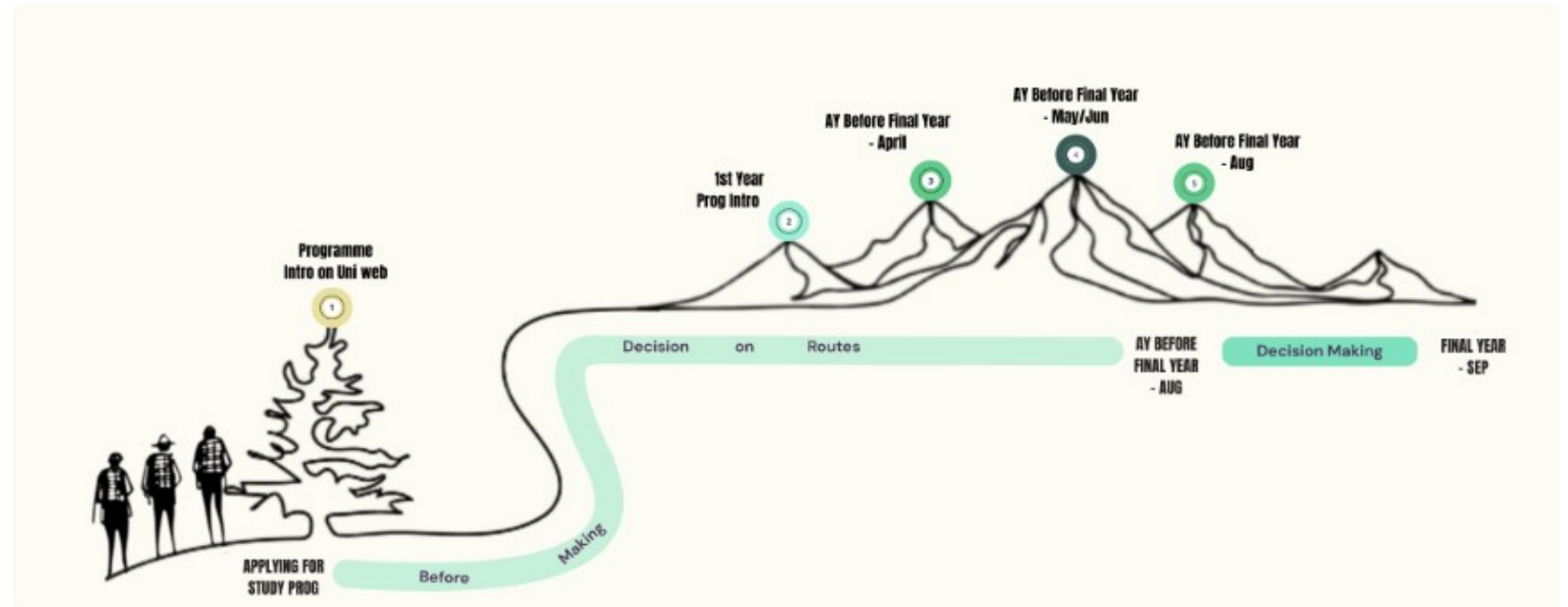


Package 3

Co-create Best
Practice Guidelines



Overview of Milestones

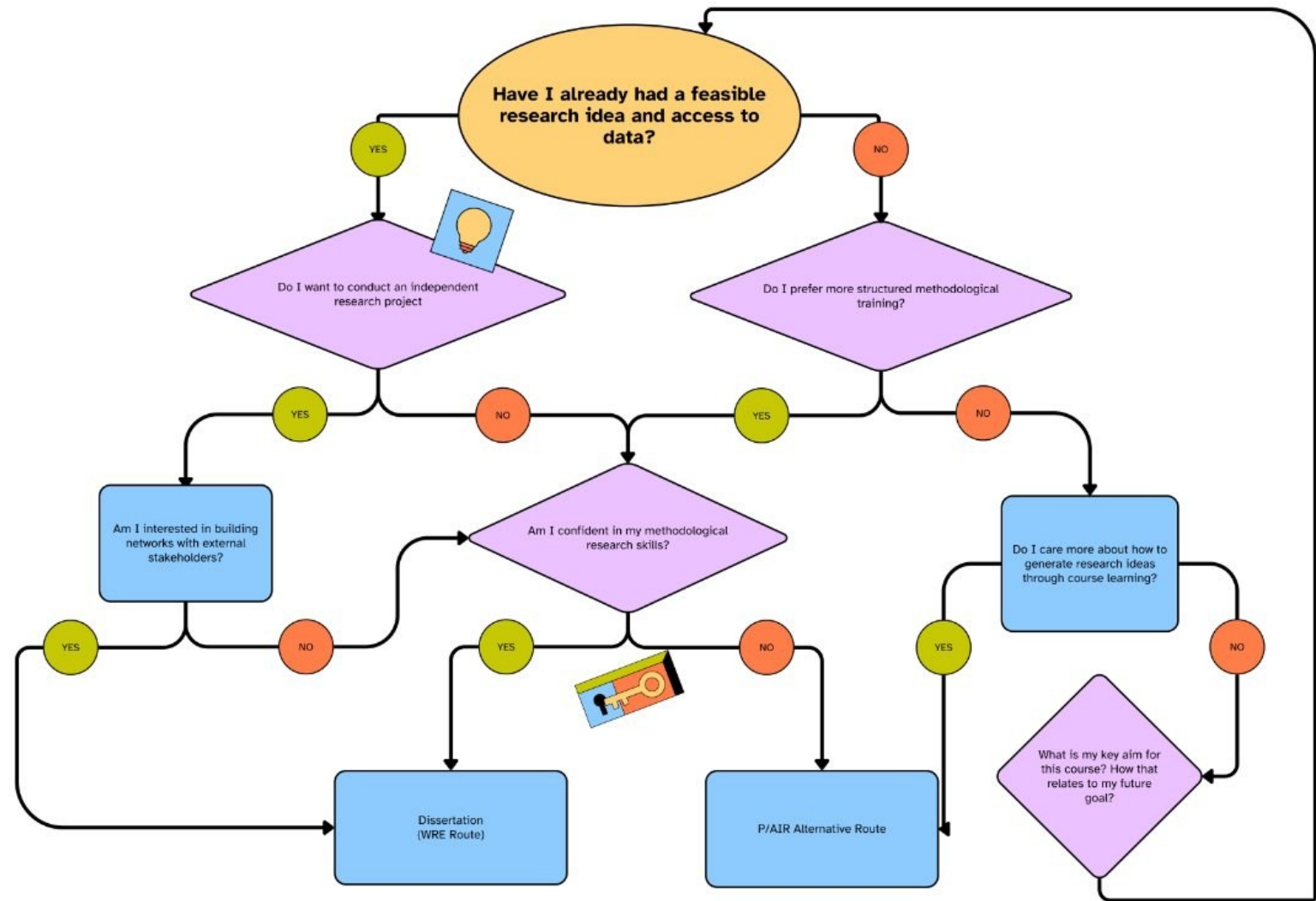


Detailed Support and Actions

Decision-Making

Package 3

Co-create Best Practice Guidelines



THANKYOU

