

Early Start for TM470 project students

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eSTEEeM

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Early Start for TM470 project students - introduction

Context

TM470 project module, 30 credits, likely to be last module of degree.

Aimed at students deemed to be at risk who might drop out or fail TM470 – multiple attempts, gap in study, etc.. Not all students in this group could be offered early start, so other became the control group.

Inspiration

This project aligns with eSTeEM's priority area of "Student support".

Improve the experience of students who participate in early start, to potentially increase confidence and motivation among this cohort and thereby improve the overall completion/ pass rate for the module.

Project outline

Tutors provide early support in the months leading up to module start.

Early Start for TM470 project students - timetable

The suggested timetable for the contact process was:

- October - introduction, explore early ideas.
- November - refine ideas and early research.
- December - post initial ideas to TM470 Project Preparation Forum and reflect on feedback and ideas including anything learned from other student postings.
- January - student prepares an early draft plan for discussion with tutor.
- February - student 'hits the ground running'

Early Start for TM470 project students - aims

Aims

- ▶ Analyse student performance, for those on early start and those who are not, to make a comparison.
- ▶ Gather feedback from students on the early start project to discover how effective they felt the early start was, for example in giving them more confidence when embarking on their project.
- ▶ Gather feedback from tutors to indicate the effectiveness of the early start project.

Early Start for TM470 project students - cohorts

Student cohorts

- ▶ 20B TM470 early start pilot, 12 students supported, 6 tutors. Initial results were promising.
- ▶ 21B, small amount of funding was available to continue the project, 12 students supported, 6 tutors. Mixed results – so decided to explore further...
- ▶ 22B , slightly bigger group, 25 students, and 12 tutors. More in-depth.

Early Start for TM470 project students - method

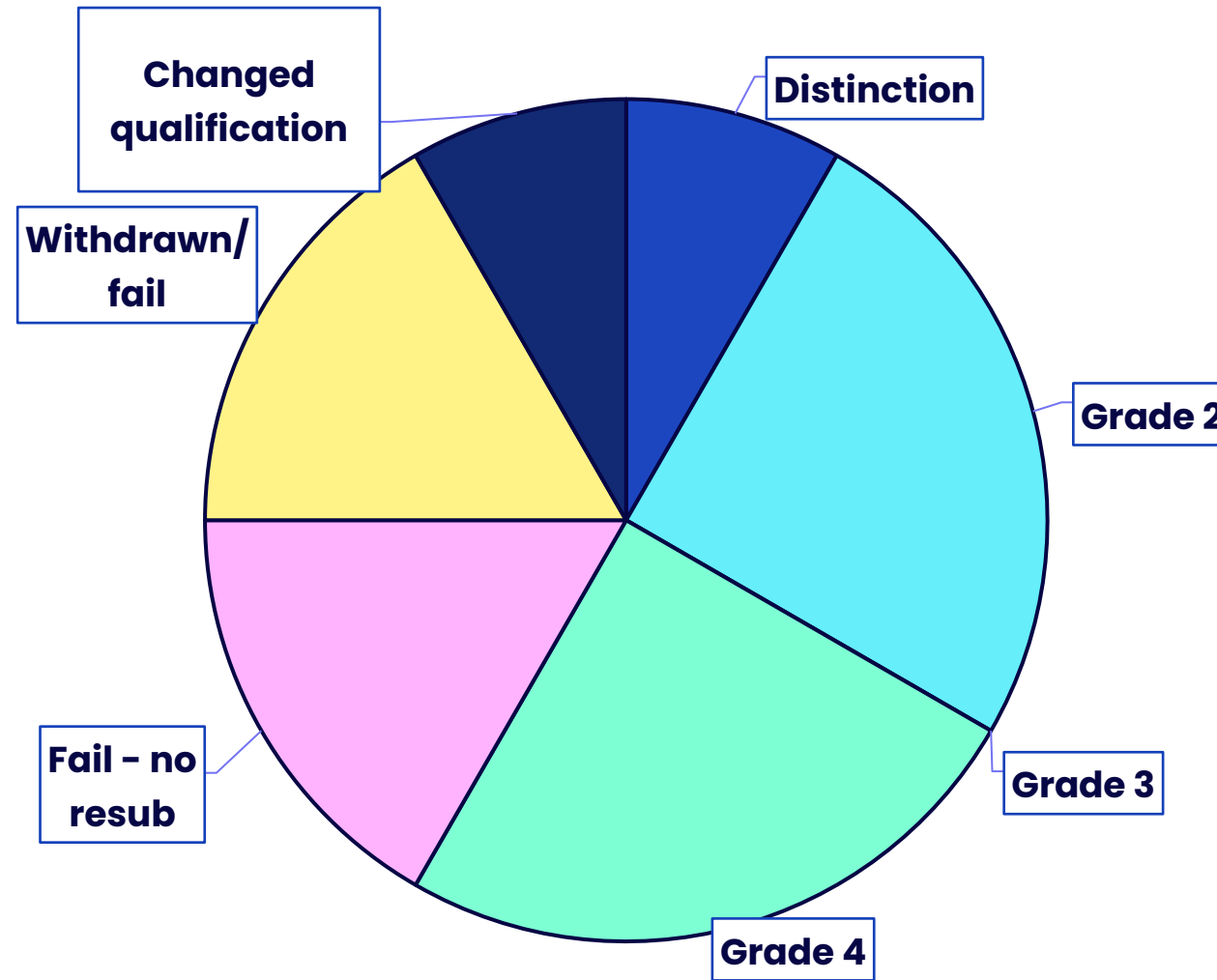
Method

Three main sources of data, mixed methods:

- ▶ Analytics data on student performance – how they have performed on previous modules, study intensity.
- ▶ Student interviews on motivations and reasons for early start – to give an insight into the early start process from a student perspective.
- ▶ Written feedback from ALs involved in early start – to understand the support method/s that tutors put in place for the students, and their effectiveness.

20B – pilot, promising results, pass rate 58%

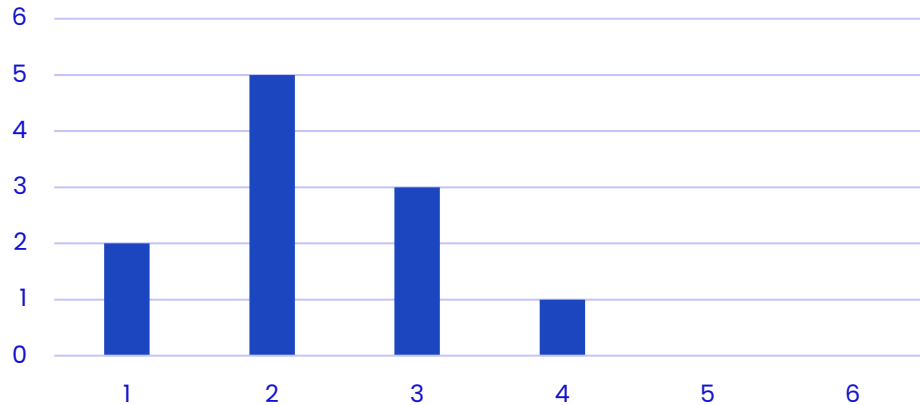
20B results



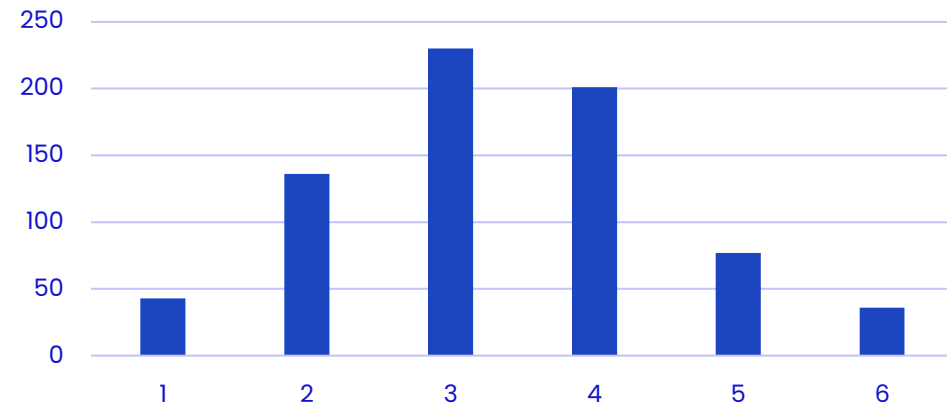
Pass rate prediction bands for 21B students at module start

Early Start students compared to whole cohort

Early Start 21B - predicted pass bands
(1=low, 6=high)



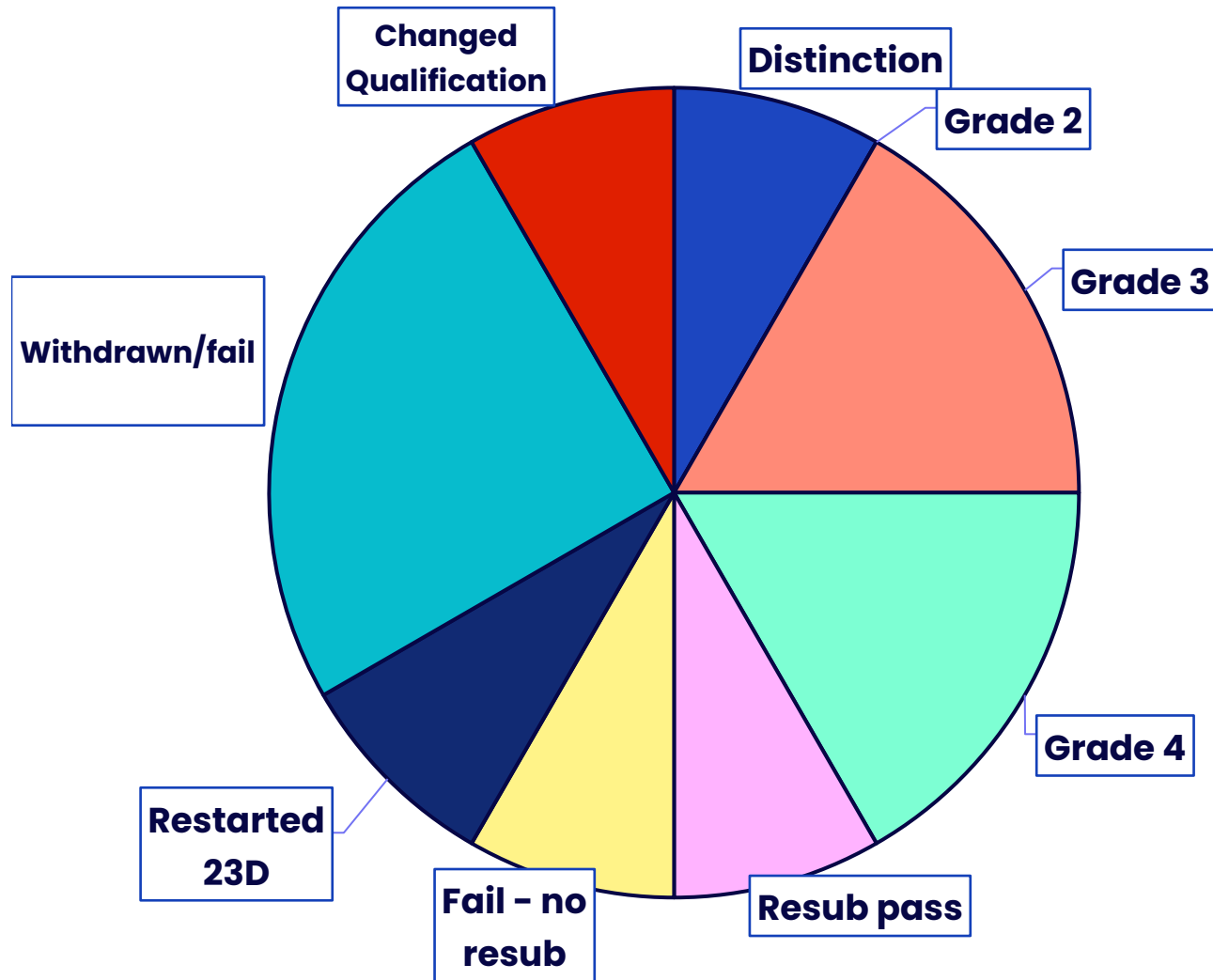
21B whole cohort prediction (1=low,
6=high)



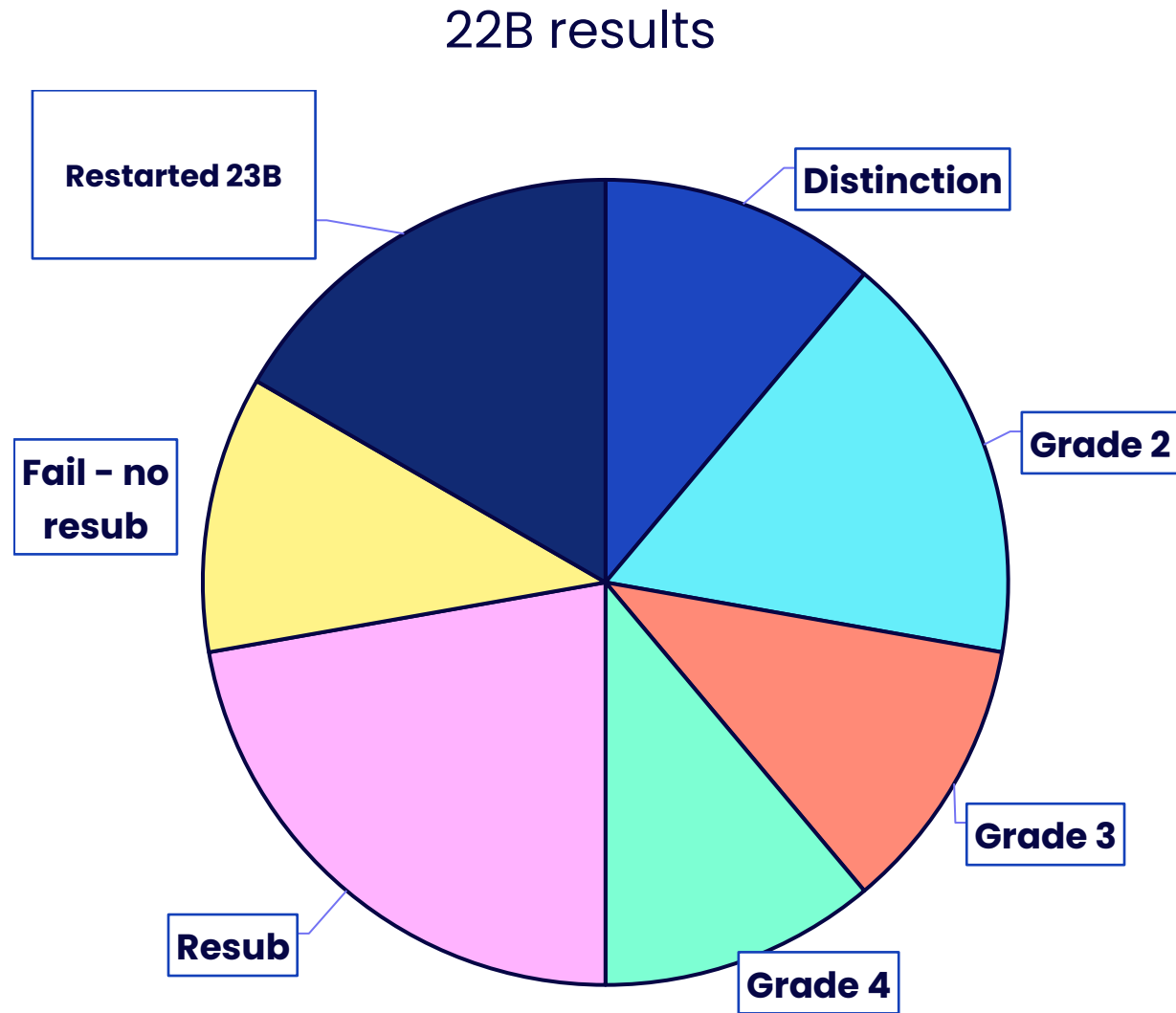
Completion from 25%	Pass Rate
76.3%	67.2%

21B – pass rate 50% for early start students

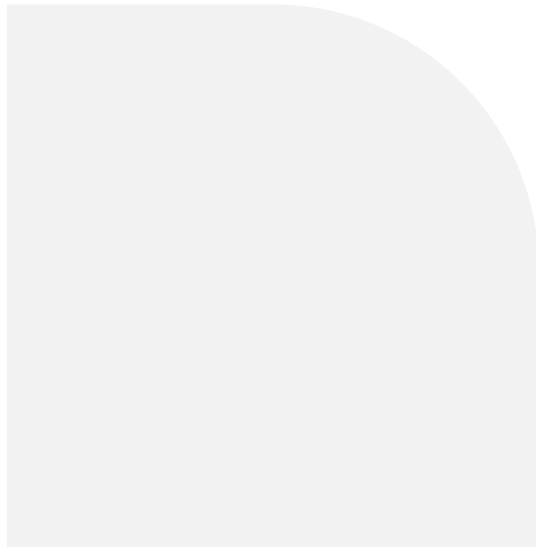
21B results



22B – results so far (waiting for resubmission results)



Student comments



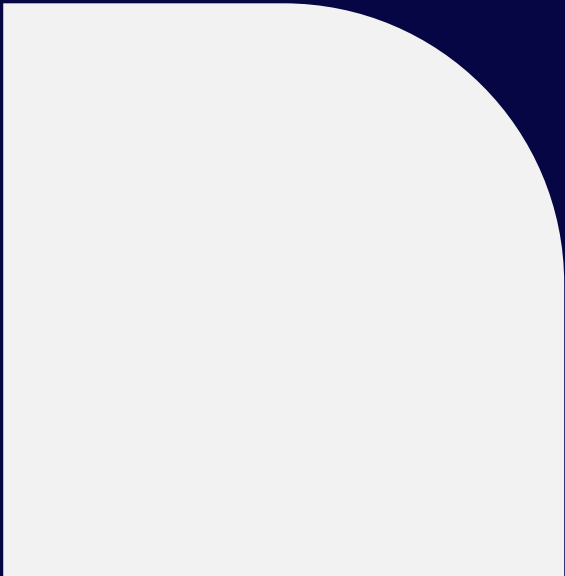
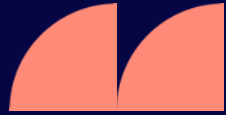
You've got that buffer throughout, particularly if you've recently had to stop like me, because you've got a busy life outside.

I was keen to do it again. Because obviously, I get my degree finished on (TM)470. Obviously, that means a lot to me, otherwise I wouldn't have started it 11 years ago.

Take advantage of a head start. Here we are in November, December. Start now!



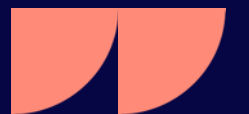
Tutor Comments



I would say both students benefitted from having early access to their tutor, although their particular circumstances were quite different: the first student was struggling to have a 'good' project idea, whereas the second student had faced family issues last year.

In both cases the early communication with the tutor facilitates an early engagement and an early start, which allows for some issues to crop up but still meet the deadlines for submitting coursework.

The initial response was very positive, but both are now behind where I would hope at this point, but hopefully ready to move forward.



Early Start for TM470 project students - impact

Potential Impact

- ▶ Students successfully complete their final project and, therefore, their degree .
- ▶ Improve the overall completion/ pass rate for the module.
- ▶ Increase retention, student satisfaction, so have a positive effect on TM470 metrics.
- ▶ Additionally, increase the knowledge base of early start interventions.

Thank you

Questions?

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