

# Mature Students

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# Learning Development Service

- Established 2007
- Centralised service
- Maths/Stats Support
- One-to-one appointments
- Drop-in sessions
- Workshops
- Resources

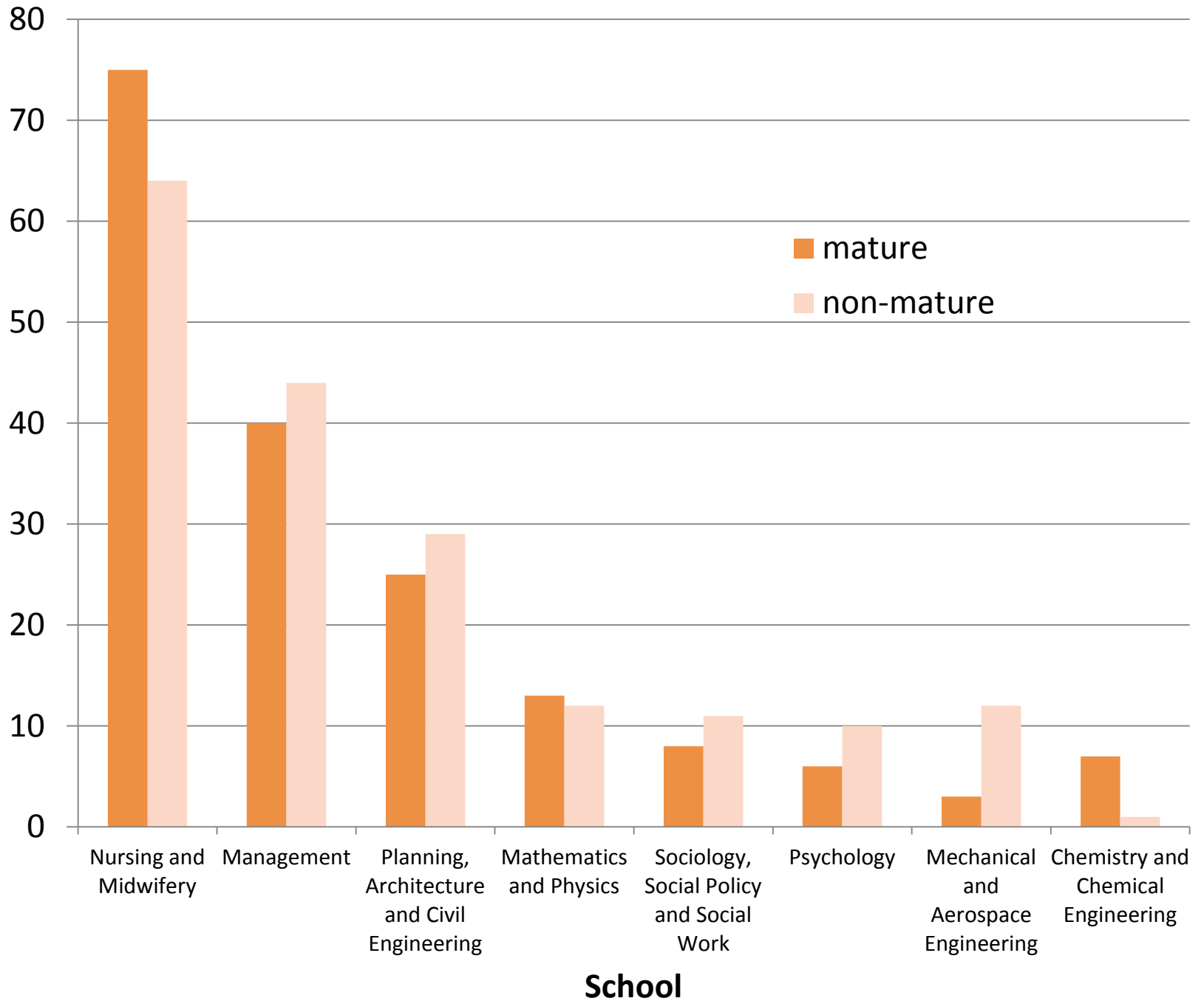


# Mature Students

- QUB definition: “one who has had a break in full-time study (normally a minimum of two years).”
- Impressions from LDS tutors:
  - Access routes
  - Responsibilities
  - Motivation
  - Attitude
- Analysis 2010-2013 shows 45% of 1-1 appointments were with **mature** students



number of 1-to-1 appointments



# Observations from Engineering Lecturer

- Weekly support classes for students with no 'A' Level maths
- Integrated alongside level one maths module
- *Progression*  
Variety of behaviours from first class average to repeating year/withdrawal
- *Attendance*  
No trend - range between 5% - 100%
- *Integration with cohort*  
Concern regarding isolation



# Case Study

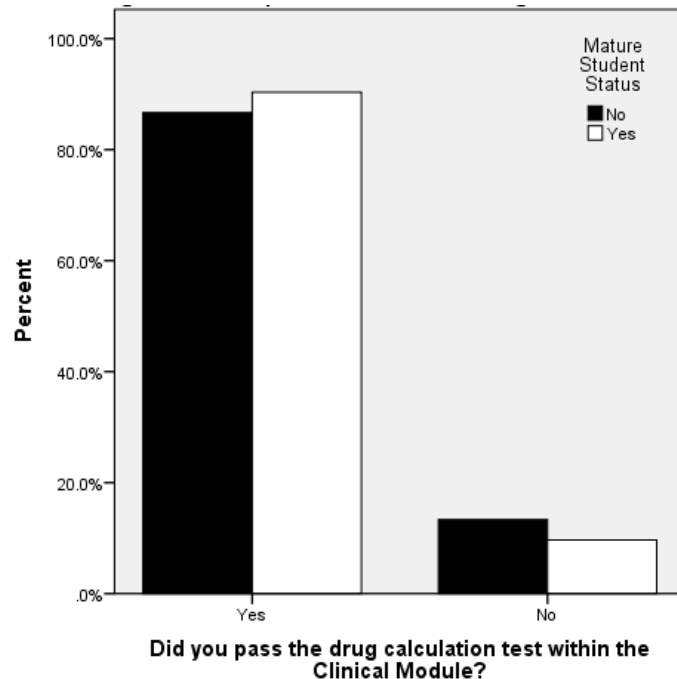
- School of Nursing and Midwifery – mature student demographic
- Drug calculations key role of nurse, “essential” (NMC, 2010)
- Mathematical challenges
- Demand for support
- Development of [online resource](#)
- Average of 4200 visits per month (Sep 2012 – Aug 2013)



“I have found the online numeracy resources to be absolutely invaluable. I am a mature student and as such it has been some time since I studied GCSE Maths (originally I took maths O'level but failed that). Anyway, without the online resources I would not have passed any of the drug calculations and have copies of sample questions printed and then reprinted and I practice them almost every day! Love em!”

“I have been using this site for a few months and have to compliment the team that put it together as it has helped me to understand calculations that I previously struggled with. The video clip explanations are clear and concise. I am a year 3 student nurse and thanks to this site I no longer fear maths in the way in which I previously had. In particular the stages from year one up to year three levels is clear and shows the build up to more complex calculations, without being thrown in at the deep end. Thank you so much for giving me the confidence to understand and not let maths hold me back.”

- Attainment of mature students (Lauder *et al.*, 2008)
- Quantitative Study – April 2013
- Highest pass rate within highest age group
- More mature students passed exam than non-mature **but** correlation is not statistically significant





# Moving forward

- Extend contact hours beyond 9-5
- Distance learning support
- Development of online self-directed resources
- Mature students mentoring scheme 2014-15

## Discussion

- Experiences with mature students accessing maths support
- Lessons for traditional undergraduate students

