

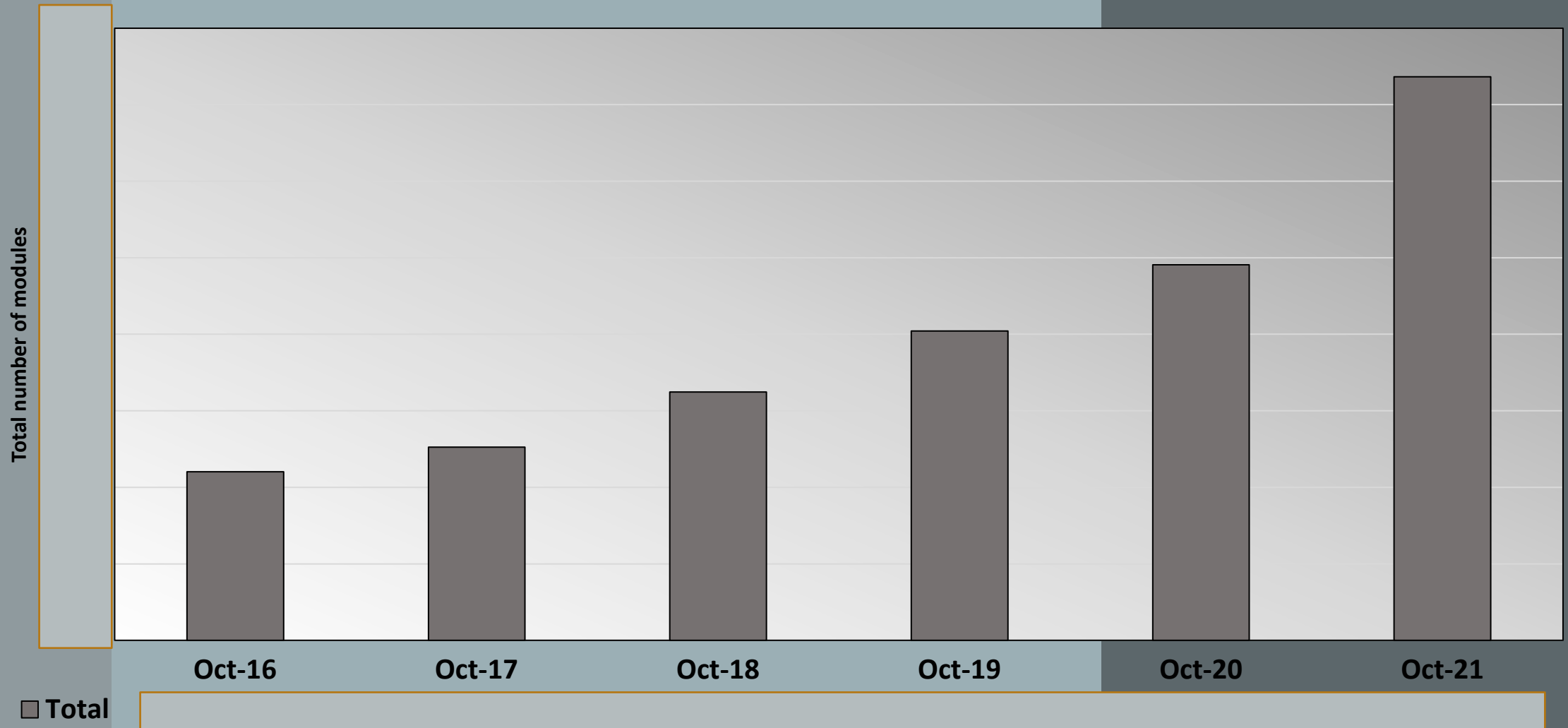


THE OPEN UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE OF ONLINE LEARNING FOR NEURO-DIVERSE STUDENTS

Jo Mapplebeck Specific Learning Difficulties Advisor September 2022



NUMBER OF MODULES STUDIED BY STUDENTS WITH AUTISM



OUTCOMES



Overall
attainment gap



Positive
feedback



Complex
complaints

WHAT IS ABOUT
THE OPEN
UNIVERSITY THAT
WORKS
FOR STUDENTS
WITH AUTISM

- Online nature of study
- Acceptance of difference
- Having control
- Person centred learning
- Social interaction

WHAT CAN BE
CHALLENGING
ABOUT THE
OPEN
UNIVERSITY
FOR STUDENTS
WITH AUTISM

- **Module materials**
- **Tutor interactions**
- **Group work and F2F**
- **Lack of a single point of contact**
- **Inconsistency and ambiguity**

REASONABLE
ADJUSTMENTS
THAT
ENHANCE
OUR
STUDENTS
EXPERIENCE
OF ONLINE
AND HYBRID
LEARNING

Study Skills Tutor

Learning Mentor

Adaptive software

Printed materials

Disability profile

Exam adjustments

DEVELOPING A
GREATER
AWARENESS OF
THE NEEDS OF
AUTISTIC
STUDENTS

Challenging
preconceptions

Difference versus Deficit

The rise of
neurodiversity



COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING

A DOUBLE
EMPATHY
PROBLEM?

QUESTIONS?

