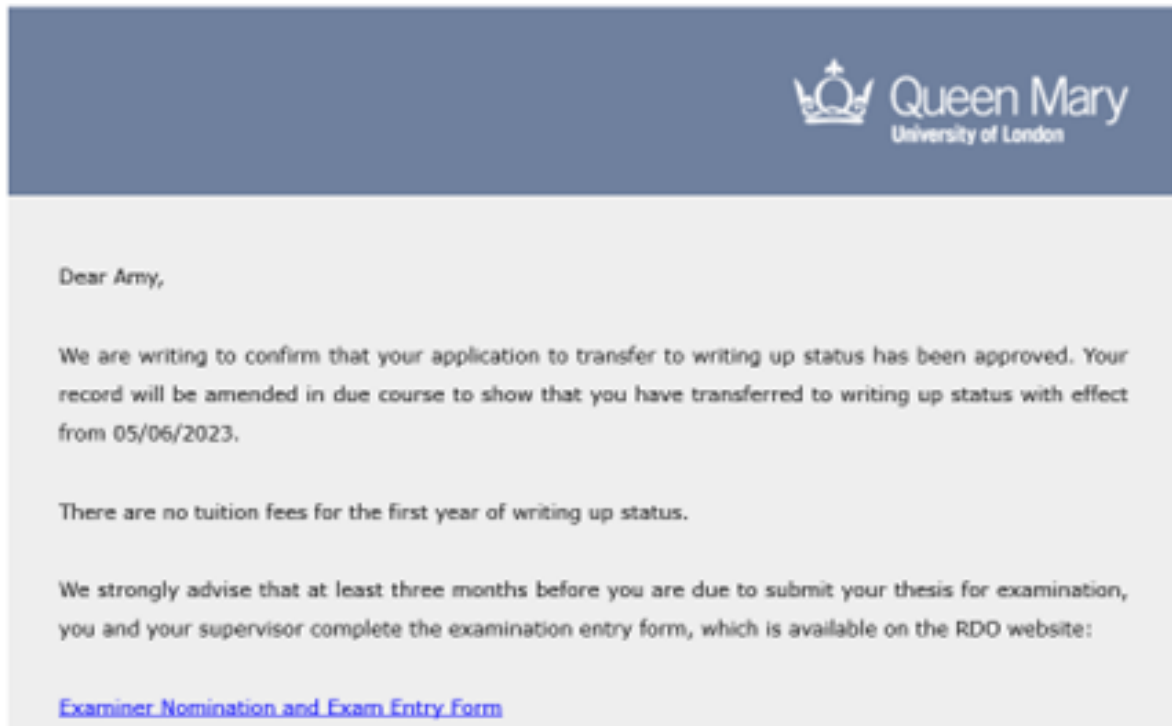




THE TAP

Technology, Anxiety, Pain

*July 2023
Issue 22*



TRANSFER TO WRITE UP

At the start of June I was notified of the approval of my application to 'transfer to write up'. This means that I am informing the university that I have completed all of the data collection as part of my PhD and I am now solely focusing on writing my thesis. This is the last formal progression point I have before I actual submit my thesis.

As part of this application I have to complete a timetable for completing my thesis. This involves listing out all of the chapters I will include, what status they are currently in, and when I aim to have them finished. My plan is to have an eight chapter thesis, although there is still uncertainty over whether my scoping app review will be it's own chapter or will form part of my literature review, meaning I might finish with seven chapters.

My aim is to finish writing all chapters by the end of this year, meaning I will have to complete a chapter a month. I will then have a few weeks to review my thesis as a whole and make any amendments needed to ensure my argument is clear throughout. This means I aim to finish my PhD in the first few months of 2024 (I'm purposefully not telling people my target submission date so that I don't place any additional pressure on myself).

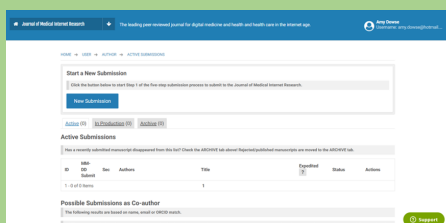
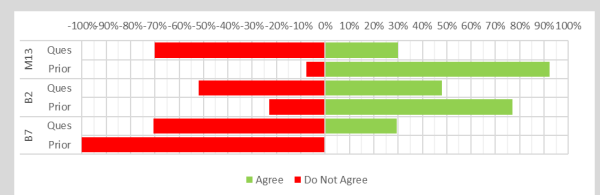
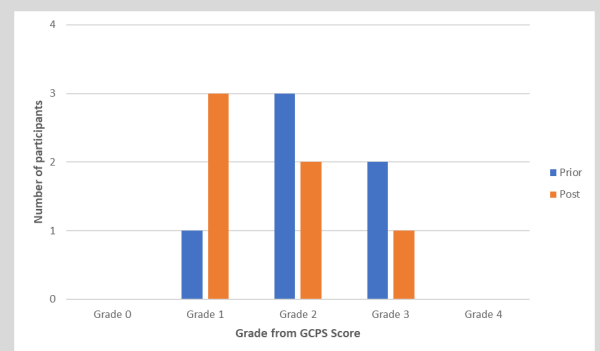
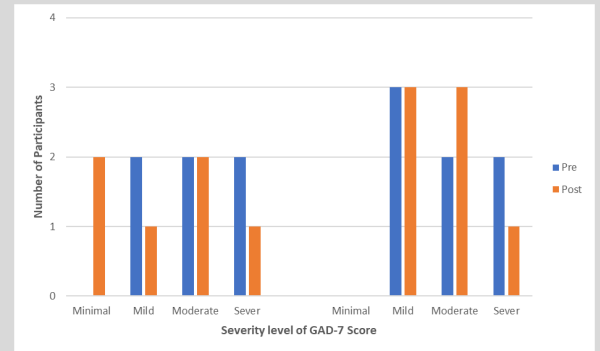
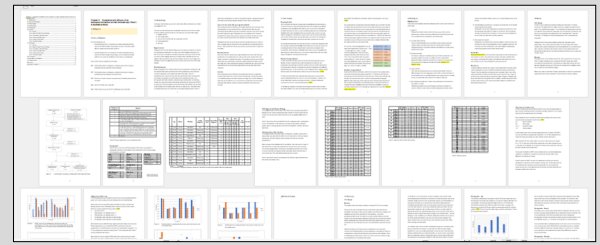
TESTING 'HERE' CHAPTER

Throughout June I have been focussing on writing up my Testing 'Here' study into a chapter within my thesis.

There is a lot of data to analyse as this study was made up of multiple parts - a prior questionnaire, a post study questionnaire, app usage data, and an interview.

I began by focusing on the questionnaire and app usage data as I have experience with analysing this type of data from my previous study. I have found that I feel more confident in my analysis this time around which has been a really positive experience.

I am now moving on to focus on analysing my interviews. This is my first time analysing qualitative data so I am reaching out to other PhD students to get as much support and advice as possible.



SUBMITTING TO A JOURNAL

In June I submitted my first ever paper to the 'Journal of Medical Internet Research'. Unfortunately this paper was not accepted as it did not align with their current focus for the journal, but they did comment that it was "a well-written and interesting manuscript".

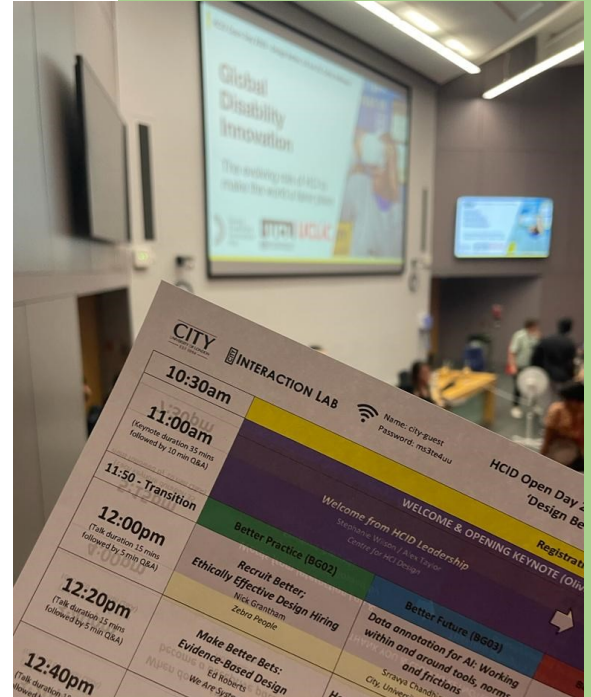
Naturally I was very disappointed not to have been accepted, but after speaking to my supervisors this is a very common thing.

Going forward, my plan is to submit my paper to other journals, as well as any upcoming conferences where it would be relevant. Although I am nervous, I am also looking forward to getting some more feedback on my work.

HICD AT CITY UNIVERSITY

On 14th June I attended the City University Human Computer Interaction Design Open Day.

The theme of the day was 'Design Better'. There was a jam-packed schedule of talks from a range of different people from a variety of different backgrounds. I found the talks focusing on 'designing for everyone' extremely interesting as a lot of time was spent discussing how to design to be inclusive of people with a variety of different abilities and disabilities which is an area that I am hugely interested in. I also really enjoyed a talk given about the design and development of the COVID-19 tracing app. It was fascinating to hear about some of the work that went on behind the scenes to get this app off the ground and working, as well as all of the design considerations they had to think about.



FESTIVAL OF COMMUNITIES

I have recently become more interested in taking part in Public Engagement events, both to share my knowledge and build my own confidence. On the 10th June I worked on a stall at the Festival of Communities run by my supervisor

The annual Festival brings together hands-on demonstrations of local research and services, fun family activities, food stalls, and games, to create two-days of fun for all ages and interests.

Our stall involved children generating their own postcards using our predefined selection of words, and then sending them in our Post Box to whoever they wished. The idea of this activity was to manually simulate how Artificial Intelligence works. This was my first time at the festival and it was a great experience, one that I hope to do again in the future.

DOING WHAT I LOVE

The month started with a trip to see Heathers The Musical with my sister at a local theatre. We first went to see this show in London in 2018 where I absolutely fell in love with the music. It was so much fun to see it performed live again after listening to the sound track for all these years!

Later in the month my sister and I then took part in a virtual scavenger hunt in Milton Keynes based on Beauty and the Beast. Ever since we went I've been trying to figure out how best to describe it - we had an app that had virtual points where we could talk to a character, solve puzzles, get clues, and pick up items. In order to talk to these people we had to physically walk to where they were on the map in the app, but when we got there, there wasn't anything physical to see - it was all through the app! It was a really fun morning spent with my sister walking around in the sunshine (and we did manage to find the Beast and solve the puzzle!).

For Father's Day we treated my Dad to some games at Top Golf (a driving range). When he was younger he used to play a lot of golf so he easily beat myself and my sister (neither of us had ever swung a golf club in our lives). Unfortunately due to a recent heart attack my Mum wasn't allowed to take part so we are planning a rematch when she is feeling better - she won a golf trophy in her 20's so I fear she will easily beat me and my sister as well!

I ended the month going to see Mamma Mia in London with my best friend. We both have really busy schedules so it was so lovely to spend the day with her, catching up, and seeing a fantastic show!

