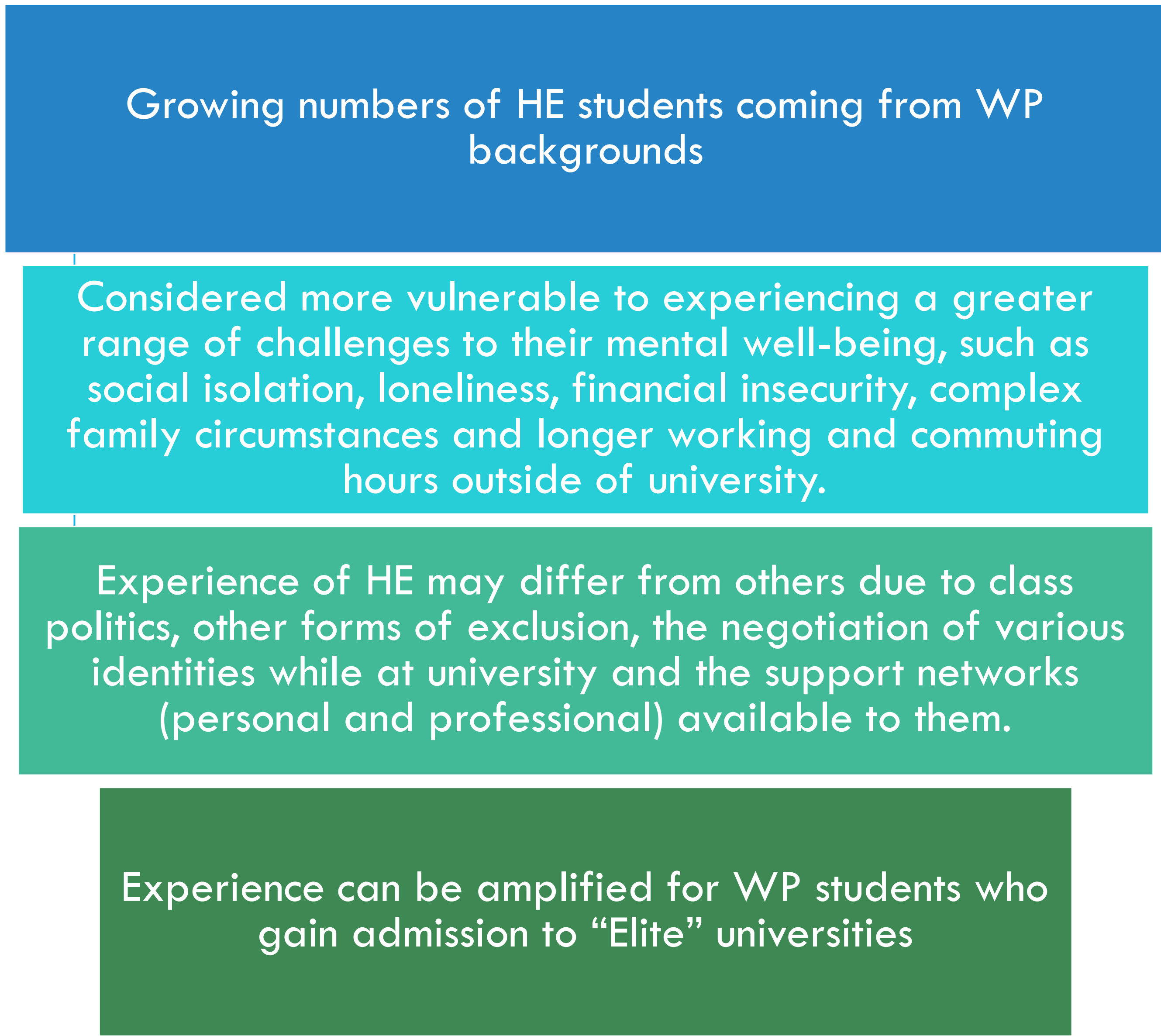




Assessing the Mental Health of Widening Participation (WP) Students across their journeys into and through Elite Higher Education (HE) Institutions

Michelle O'Toole, Susan Dunnett, Tom Calvard and Mary Brennan,
University of Edinburgh Business School

Context



Project Aim

To explore, identify and understand the journeys of WP students in, and through, an elite university in terms of mental health challenges, perceived well-being, and institutional supports and impact.

Research Design and Ethics

Methodology

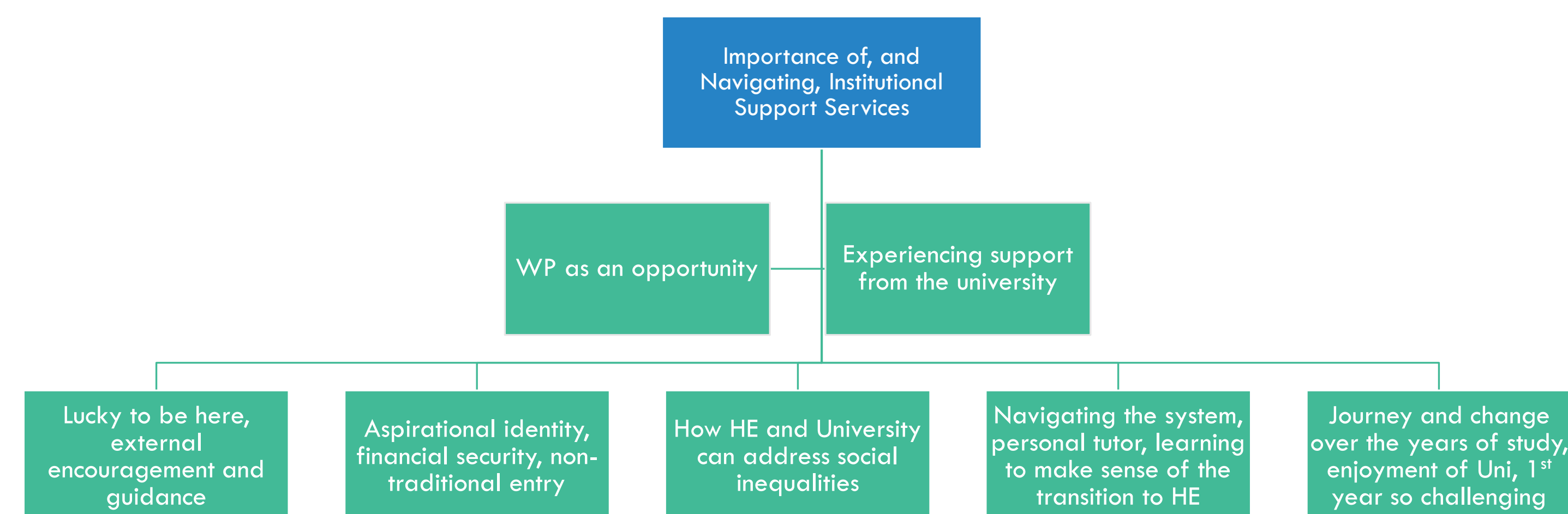
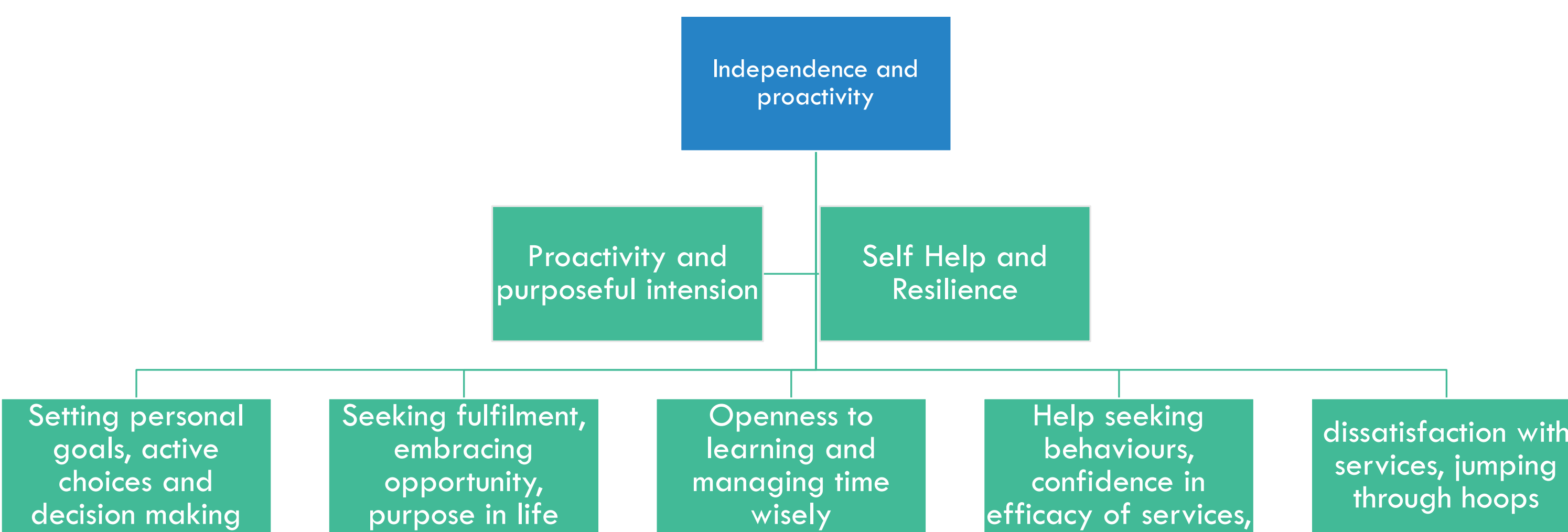
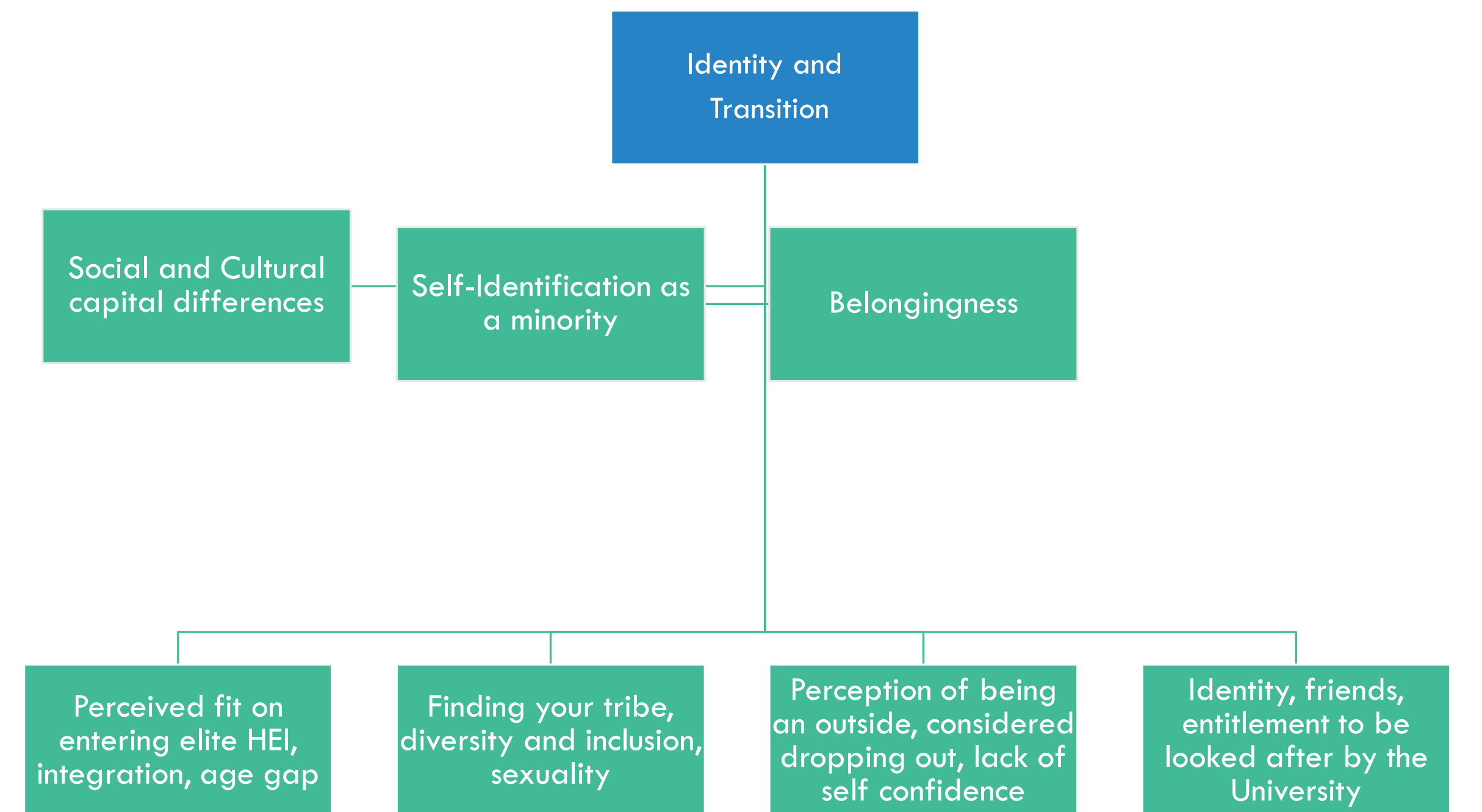
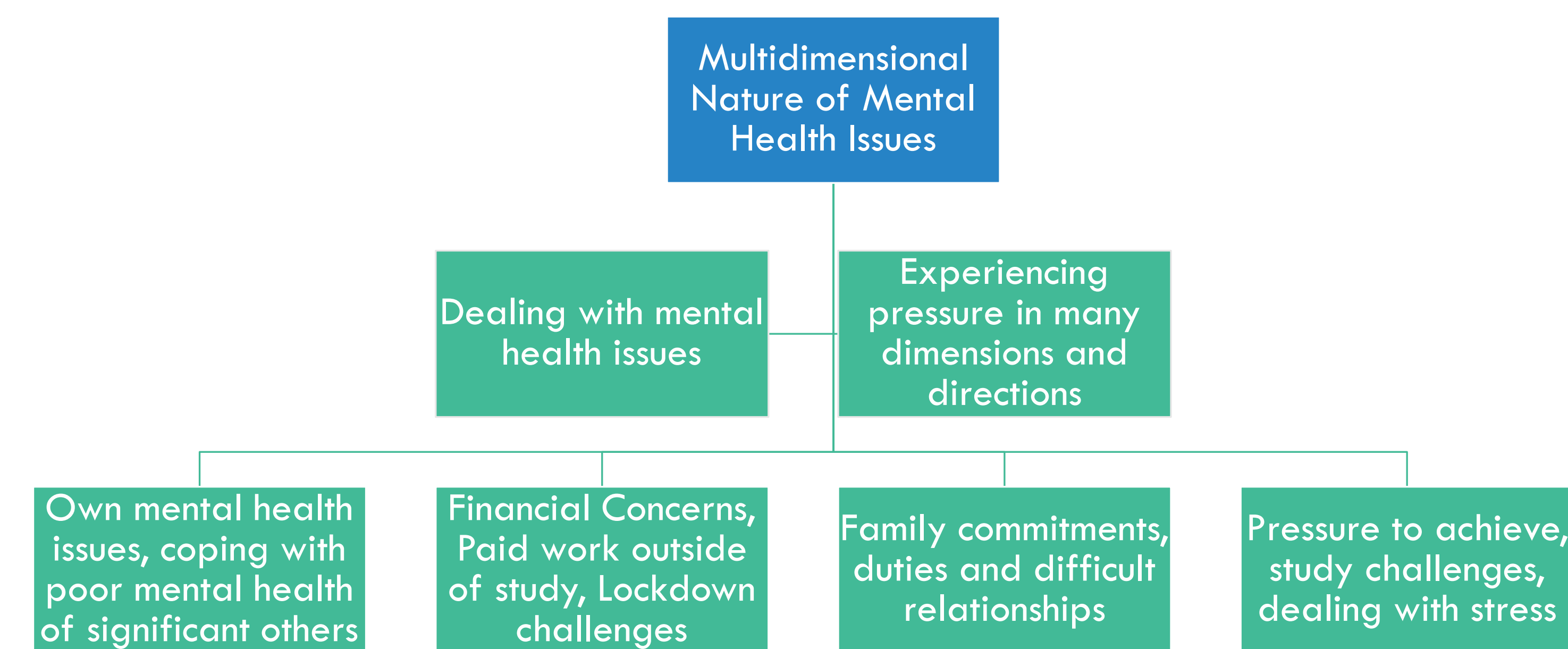
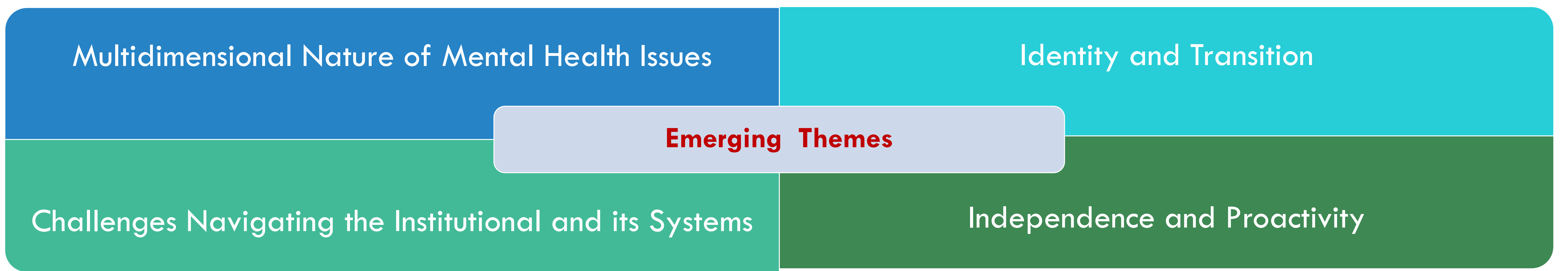
Methodological Approach:
Qualitative
Reasoning: Inductive
Research Design: Cross Sectional with longitudinal component (follow up interviews)
Limitations: Generalisability; COVID 19 disruption to planned data collection

Data Collection and Ethics

Sampling technique: Purposive sampling of UG WP students at UoE Business School
Sample: 49 semi-structured interviews (6 with staff, 38 with students including 2nd interviews across Oct – Dec'19, Nov'20, Nov'21) + 1 focus group with WP UoE experts in Oct 2019
Ethical Approval: Level 3 ethical approval granted in Sept 2019 by UoE Business School Research Ethics Committee.

Data Analysis

Thematic analysis of transcripts: open and axial coding in NVivo 12
Peer debrief to develop final aggregate dimensions



Emerging Lessons

