

Analyses:

Paired t tests, pre and post for:

- Sense of belonging
- Academic confidence
- Cognitive skills

For each subject and combined.

Propensity Score Matching to create matched groups to PAL participants.

Independent t tests, comparing exam results for PAL vs no PAL. For each subject.

Exam score findings:

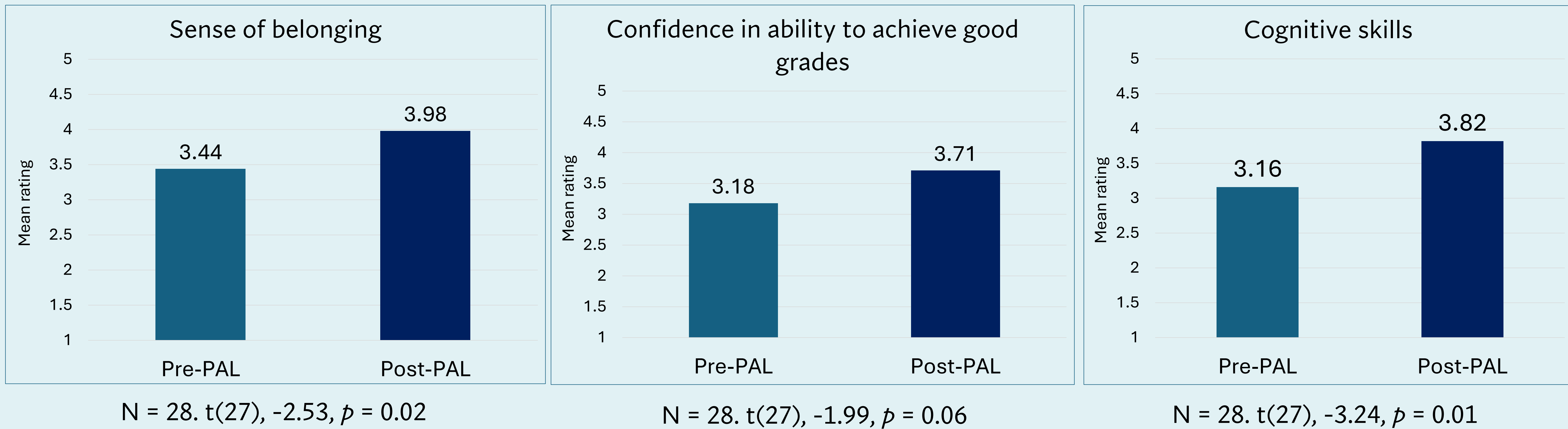
Business: matched analysis result showed that students doing PAL scored 11 points higher than the matched group ($p = 0.03$).*

* Prior attainment not matched

Pharmacy: matched analysis showed that PAL participants score 1.2 points higher, not significant ($p = 0.87$).*

* av. grade was already high 2:1

ePALuation: utilising the ASQ and exam scores



Peer assisted learning positively impacts student sense of belonging, confidence (marginal) and cognitive skills. The impact on exam scores is unclear at this stage.

Use of the ASQ facilitated robust evaluation. PSM-matched groups for exam score comparison shows promise for strong type 2 evaluation.

Next steps: larger sample sizes, more subject areas and more control for prior attainment, and engagement (if possible).



Read the full evaluation report (includes the Theory of Change)

Use of the Access & Success Questionnaire:

Benefits:

- Ease of implementation
- Reliable intermediate outcome measurement

Challenges:

- Low response rates
- Need for small wording changes (specificity)
- Including another data source (exam scores) has the potential for a richer picture

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What is Peer Assisted Learning (PAL)?

A model of peer-led academic support in which second or third year students deliver group learning activities for first year students.

How does this fit into our APP?

PAL is part of our intervention strategy to close continuation gaps.

Evaluation questions:

- Does participation in PAL significantly increase students':
reported sense of belonging?
reported academic confidence?
reported cognitive skills?
- Additional question: does PAL impact exam scores?

Data collected:

21 Pharmacy students, 18 Business School students. 20 Pharmacy and 8 Business students responded to pre and post.

- Pre and post:
 - Sense of belonging (TASO ASQ)
 - Academic confidence (adapted from NERUPI)
 - Cognitive skills (slightly adapted from TASO ASQ)
- Exam scores