

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Project Title: Exploring first year students pre and post-arrival perceived confidence and importance utilising a pre-arrival survey.

1. What is the purpose of the project?

Meehan and Howells (2018) found that the values of 'being, belonging and becoming' were important to students, and that: the academic staff students work with; the nature of students' academic study; and the feeling of belonging; mattered. Engaging with students prior to their arrival at university could help develop this sense of belonging and connectedness. Giving students the opportunity to express their expectations, areas of confidence / concerns and areas of interest pre-arrival will help institutions to tailor their induction programmes and teaching content in the first few weeks of semester 1. This will enhance the student learning experience and subsequently positively impact student satisfaction, engagement and enjoyment, developing the student sense of belonging early and ultimately lead to a positive student transition to HE and less likelihood of student withdrawal.

Research Aim – To explore first year student's pre and post-arrival perceived confidence and importance in learning, employability, community and health and well-being when transitioning to University.

2. Why have I been selected to take part?

You have been invited to take part in this project as you are a pre-enrolled student on a level 3 or 4 programme at your university

3. Do I have to take part?

No, you are under no obligation to take part in the survey. There will be no academic repercussions of not taking part.

4. What will happen if I take part?

Your survey responses will be collated by a third party data processor (Explorance Blue) on behalf of the university to collate responses. The third party will provide the research team at your university with the survey response data who will respond to your responds if required. Thereafter all responses will be anonymised.

5. What are the potential disadvantages of taking part?

There are no disadvantages of taking part. The survey is hoping to enhance our knowledge and understanding of the needs and requests of incoming students to help inform and direct student induction activities, semester 1 teaching content and student support.

6. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

By taking part it you may find you are able to reflect on where you are at in terms of different skillsets prior to joining university (e.g. learning and teaching, employability). By taking part you can share your voice in terms of what information you would like to receive in induction week and beyond (i.e. more information on clubs and societies, employability or possible careers). It is hoped that students taking part will enhance their feeling of connectedness with the university and as a result enhance your sense of belonging at university.

7. Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential and anonymous?

Yes. The data collected from you in this research project will remain strictly confidential. The survey responses you provide will be allocated an ID number. Your name will not appear in any reports or documents resulting from this project. The only exception to this confidentiality is if the

researcher feels that you or others may be harmed if information is not shared. If this is the case, this will only be passed onto specialist training support teams within the university.

8. How will my data be stored?

All data will only be accessible to the research staff team, limited staff at Ask4Help and the data processor using Explorance Blue. Any electronic information will be stored on a password-protected computer. All of the information provided will be treated in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and the UK Data Protection Act 2018.

9. What will happen to the results of the study?

Any information and data gathered during this project will only be available to the research team, limited staff at Ask4Help and the data processor using Explorance Blue. Should the research be presented or published in any form, all data will be anonymous (i.e. personal information or data will not be identifiable).

10. Who is organising the Study?

The study is being led by staff within the Department of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation at your chosen university with the assistance of Explorance Blue to distribute and collate the survey responses.

11. Who has reviewed this study?

This research project and its protocol has received full ethical approval from your university ethics panel.