



13/03/2019

Participant Information Sheet

Research Project Title: Higher education choices of care leavers and estranged students.

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide whether or not to participate, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask me if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Please take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. Thank you for your time reading this.

1. What is the purpose of this project?

This project is being conducted in the context of recent research on factors which influence young peoples' decision-making processes when choosing to attend higher education. This project aims to expand upon this research by exploring the factors which influence the higher education choices of students who are care leavers or are estranged from their parents. The project also aims to increase understanding of the barriers to higher education they may face. This project forms the dissertation component of my master's degree in social research and will be submitted in August 2019.

2. Who can participate?

Students who have experienced being in care and/or who self-identify as being estranged from their parents can take part in this research.

3. Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep (and be asked to sign a consent form) and you can still withdraw your data up to a month after you participate without any negative consequences. You do not have to give a reason. If you wish to withdraw from the research, please contact myself at ghgsimmonds1@sheffield.ac.uk.

4. What will I have to do if I take part?

Participation involves taking part in either a focus group or an interview. Which you prefer is up to you. Focus groups will include up to five participants and interviews will be on a one-to-one basis with myself. Both will be approximately 90 minutes and I will be the only researcher present. You will have the opportunity to engage in creative methods, representing your decision-making processes regarding higher education through drawing or writing. I will provide stationery for this purpose, but please do feel free to bring along other materials or items which you feel are relevant such as pictures or photographs. These can then inform discussion. Questions will focus on the factors which influenced your decision to attend university generally and your particular university and course. Questions will be open ended, allowing you to highlight which factors were important to your higher education choices. I intend to voice record interviews and focus groups. For more information regarding the interviews and focus groups, please see the attached guide.

5. What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

Participating in the research is not anticipated to cause you any disadvantage or distress but discussing decision-making processes can sometimes cause discomfort. If at any point during the focus group or interview you feel unhappy, you can take a break, decide you don't want to answer a question or participate in the discussion, or decide to stop taking part without any negative consequences.

6. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no immediate benefits for those people participating in the project, but it is hoped that this work will improve understanding of the decision-making processes of students who are care leavers and estranged from their parents when making choices about higher education which can be utilised to reduce the barriers they may face.

7. Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?

All the information that we collect during the project will be kept strictly confidential. You will not be identified or identifiable in any of the material associated to this project as your name will not be used. Fake names (pseudonyms) will be used in transcripts, the dissertation and any resulting publications. Data will be stored securely and will be password protected.

8. What is the legal basis for processing my personal data?

According to data protection legislation, we are required to inform you that the legal basis we are applying in order to process your personal data is that 'processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest' (Article 6(1)(e)). Further information can be found in the University's Privacy Notice <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/govern/data-protection/privacy/general>

9. What will happen to the data collected, and the results of the research project?

Data collected will be pseudonymised, meaning you will not be identified or identifiable in any material associated with this project. I am the only researcher working on this project, meaning I am the only person interviewing and facilitating focus groups and analysing the data. Data stored will be pseudonymised and will be stored securely and will be password protected. Data will be used in the write up of my dissertation. It is possible the findings would be published. It is also possible that other researchers may find the data collected to be useful in answering future research questions. We will ask for your explicit consent for your data to be shared in this way.

10. Who is organising and funding the research?

I am organising my research and no funding is required for it.

11. Who is the Data Controller?

The University of Sheffield will act as the Data Controller for this study. This means that the University is responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.

12. Who has ethically reviewed the project?

This project has been ethically approved via the University of Sheffield's Ethics Review Procedure, as administered by the School of Education.

13. What if something goes wrong and I wish to complain about the research?

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding the research, you should contact my supervisor in the first instance. My supervisor is Dr Tim Herrick (contactable via t.herrick@sheffield.ac.uk). Should you feel your complaint has not been handled to your satisfaction, you can contact the Head of Department

of the School of Education (edu-hos@sheffield.ac.uk), who will then escalate the complaint through the appropriate channels.

14. Contact for further information

If you wish to obtain further information about the project, please do feel free to contact either myself or my supervisor (contact details below).

Researcher: Grace Simmonds.

E-mail: ghgsimmonds1@sheffield.ac.uk

Supervisor: Dr Tim Herrick

E-mail: t.herrick@sheffield.ac.uk

Thank you for considering taking part in my project. This information sheet is yours to keep. If you wish to take part, you will also be given a copy of your signed consent form to keep.