



Students' Experiences of Higher Education Information sheet for Young People

Researchers at University College London would like to invite you to take part in a study. Before you decide if you want to join in it is important to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve for you. Please read this leaflet carefully. Talk to others about the study if you wish. If you're happy to take part please provide your contact details at the end and return them to us or to the person who gave you this information sheet.

Please contact us if you have questions or would like more information. We'd be happy to talk to you about the study. Our contact details are on the next page.

What is the purpose of the study?

Today, more and more young people who have lived in foster care or residential care as a child are being encouraged and supported to continue with their education, but a recent study has shown that care leavers at university are more likely to leave before completing their course than other students. The aim of this study is to understand how care leavers experience higher education and how they can be better supported to complete their course.

Why have I been asked to take part?

We would like to speak to university students who are currently in their second or final year of a degree course and those who have previously attended university but did not complete their course. We would like to involve young people from a range of universities across London and the South East.

Do I have to take part?

No. Participation is completely voluntary. Your participation will be anonymous. If you do take part then you will be asked to sign a consent form. You will be given a copy of the consent form and this information sheet to keep. You are free to withdraw from the research at any time and without giving a reason.

What do I have to do if I take part?

If you agree to take part, we will ask you to take part in a walking talking interview where you will guide the researcher around your university campus and the surrounding area to explore day to day life at university. If you are no longer at university, we will ask you to take us on a tour of your local neighbourhood or places that are important to you in your day to day life. It is up to you where we start and finish the tour. We will audio record the walk so that we can type up our conversation later and use it for analysis and to write up the research findings.

During the guided walk we'll ask you to take photographs on your mobile phone of places that are particularly important to you. When we've finished the walk, we'll find a public space or café of your choice to talk a bit more about the places we've seen and the photos you've taken to explore your university experience in more detail.

Why should I take part?

By taking part in the study and sharing your experiences with us, we can help universities understand what it's like for students who have been in care as children to be at university, so they can provide students with the best experience possible and better support them to succeed.



What if I change my mind?

You are free to stop taking part at any point during the study. At which point all your details and any data collected will be deleted.

What happens to my information?

Data collected from the interviews will be analysed by researchers and written up. During this process we will invite some participants to take part in a group discussion to review findings and identify key messages from the research study.

What happens when the research study stops?

The final stage of the research involves communicating key messages from the study. Young people that have participated in an interview will be invited to help researchers review the key messages and plan how best to communicate these. Some of the outputs we have in mind are short films and blog posts produced by students' former students people in collaboration with researchers and media professionals. This is separate to taking part in the interview and you will be asked whether the research team can re-contact you later about being involved in this process. You would be given more information about the filming and asked to sign another form saying that you agree to the filming and use of the blogpost.

We will have a newsletter at the end of the study to let everyone know the results of the study; we can send you a copy if you are interested. We will publish our results and present at relevant conferences. Nothing will be published that will identify you; unless you take part in the filming. Data collected will be stored securely at University College London for 10 years. Any voice recordings will be destroyed once they have been typed up.

Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

Your participation in the study will be confidential. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence. Only the researchers will have access to the information collected during this project.

Who is organising and funding the research?

This research is funded by the Access and Widening Participation Team at University College London. You can find out more about them here: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/widening-participation/wp-home>

Contact Details

Research Team:

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Reply Slip

If you are interested in taking part and are happy for a researcher to contact you to discuss this further with you then please [click here](#) and fill in your contact details or fill in the your details below and email it back to the research team or pass it to the person who gave you this information sheet.

Name:

Email address:

Telephone number:

Are you currently at University? Yes No

If yes:

What year are you in? _____

What University are you studying at? _____

If you attended university but did not complete your course please tick here

What university were you studying at? _____

If you are happy to be contacted by a researcher to discuss the study further please tick this box . Giving consent for a researcher to contact you **does not** mean you are under any obligation to take part in the research