

Here are some answers to possible questions you may have about participating in the research project survey:

Q: What's in it for us as participants?

A: Your participation will contribute to the research process. Your input will be most valuable in helping to understand more about students' daily experiences in private higher education. Participation is entirely voluntary and there are no foreseeable risks to participants. If you choose to participate there will be no reward or payment. If you choose not to participate there will be no penalty.

Q: Will this affect my marks in any way?

A: Neither participation nor non-participation will affect your course marks or academic progress in any way.

Q: Must I answer all the questions?

A: No. If you choose to participate, you have the right to leave out answers to any of the questions. You also have the right to withdraw from participation at any time during the research project, with no negative consequences or penalty to yourself or your course marks.

Q: Must I fill in the consent form?

A: All participants are required to provide informed consent. If you do not provide consent you will exit the survey and will not participate in the project. If you have any questions or require any assistance with the informed consent, please contact me on the details below.

Q: Will it be anonymous?

A: Yes. Participants do not need to provide their name, student number or any form of identification. All questionnaire data will remain confidential and will be stored privately and securely.

Q: What do I do when I have completed the survey?

A: At the end of the survey you will see a 'Submit' button. You press this and the survey will be submitted online. The data is processed into a report by the computer program, which is another way that anonymity and confidentiality are maintained.

Q: Does the institution know that we are doing this?

A: The institution has granted permission for the research project to be conducted with the first-year students. The names of participants in the project will not be revealed to the institution, nor will they be used in any of the research documentation.

Q: What do I do if the link doesn't work?

A: The link is a public access URL. If you are unable to access the questionnaire it may just be a poor connection; wait 30 seconds and try again. Please contact me on the details below if you have any questions or require any assistance at any stage of the process.

Q: May I forward the link to my friend?

A: The survey is restricted to first-year students. However, if you know of any of your year peers who have not received the SMS, you are welcome to forward the SMS and the link to them. The more responses we get the better. Thanks.