

The support experiences of trans* students transitioning into Higher Education

You are being invited to take part in a study on the support experiences of trans* students transitioning into Higher Education. Before you decide, 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 ask me if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Thank you for reading this.

What is the purpose of the project?

For my final year dissertation I would like to interview a small number of people in your age group about their support experiences of transitioning into university in regard to their gender identity. This research aims to identify the positive support experiences, as well as some of the challenging experiences, faced by trans students in applying to university and the first few months of university life. The findings may help to improve the support provided for trans students at university. The interview will be used for the purposes of my assignment. The final report may include anonymized extracts from the interview that may be used in relevant published materials relating to this subject area.

Do I have to take part?

Taking part in this research is entirely voluntary. If you do not want to take part please say so. If you decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep (and be asked to sign a consent form). If you decide to take part you can change your mind at any time and withdraw from the study up until 1st March, 2019, without giving a reason, by emailing John Harrington at the contact email address below. After this date the assignment will have been prepared for submission and your data transcript cannot be retrieved.

What will happen to me if I take part?

You will be interviewed for around 60 minutes on your support experiences of being a trans* student transitioning into Higher Education, at a time and place that is convenient to you. The types of questions you will be asked will be about those experiences. If there are any questions that you do not wish to answer, you do not have to. The interview will be recorded as I will be required to transcribe the discussion for my assessment.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

During the interview you may recall memories of your university experiences that you may find emotive. At the end of the interview process you will be given a debrief sheet that will give contact details of support groups and student support services contacts. In the unlikely event that you have cause for complaint, please contact my supervisor, Dr Antonia Ivaldi, at the address below.

Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?

All personal information relating to you (e.g., name, email address, mobile phone number) will be kept confidential and in a password protected file on my personal computer. The transcript that will be included in my assessment will be anonymised so that you cannot be identified in the research in any way. You will be given a pseudonym for any quotes attributed to your interview. If there is anything that you say that might give away your identity (e.g., where you live or work), then this information will also be removed.

The audio recording of the interview will be transferred to my personal computer immediately after the interview and then permanently deleted from the recording device. This audio file will be password protected so that no one else can access it. After my official marks for this assignment

have been received and approved, in July 2019, the audio file will also be permanently deleted from the computer. Only my supervisor, second marker and examiner will see the transcript of the interview.

The data controller for this project will be Aberystwyth University (AU). The AU Data Protection Manager provides oversight of AU activities involving the processing of personal data, and can be contacted at infocompliance@aber.ac.uk. Your personal data will be processed for the purposes outlined in this notice. The legal basis that would be used to process your personal data will be 'a task in the public interest'.

If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, please contact AU in the first instance at infocompliance@aber.ac.uk. If you remain dissatisfied, you may wish to contact the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Contact details, and details of data subject rights, are available on the ICO website at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protectionreform/overview-of-the-gdpr/individuals-rights/>

What happens immediately after data collection?

You will have the opportunity to ask further questions regarding the study should you wish to do so.

Who has reviewed the project?

This project has been reviewed by the Department of Psychology's Research Ethics Committee, Aberystwyth University, in accordance with the British Psychological Society's Ethical Code. This project is being overseen by my supervisor, Dr Antonia Ivaldi.

Contact for further information	
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Trans = An umbrella term to describe people whose gender is not the same as, or does not sit comfortably with, the sex they were assigned at birth (Stonewall, 2018)*