
Information Sheet For Disability Services (Case studies)

Title: Transition to and first year of university for students on the autism spectrum.

Researcher

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Purpose of the study

The purpose of this research is to help us to better understand the barriers and facilitators to transition to university for individuals on the autism spectrum in Australia. It is hoped that the findings of this study will lead to improvements in provision of transition support and services for individuals on the autism spectrum when commencing university studies.

What will participants be asked to do?

Participants who meet the eligibility criteria will be asked to participate in a one-on-one semi-structured interview with a researcher who will ask some questions regarding their experiences of transition to and first year at university. **Participation is entirely voluntary.** The interview will take approximately 1 to 1.5 hours. The interview will be audio recorded using a digital voice recorder to help with reviewing the results. Once recorded, the interview will be transcribed (typed-up) and stored as a computer file, and will only be destroyed if the transcript is checked by the participant.

We will also be asking student participants for their permission to interview their disability advisor, a family member/other support person, and/or an academic staff member of their choice to explore the transition experience in more detail. Participation from the student's disability advisor, family member, support person or an academic staff member is **entirely voluntary**. It is anticipated that involvement for these participants would be no more than 1 to 1.5 hours. An Information Sheet will be made available to these participants with information on how they can indicate their interest in participating in this study.

Remuneration

Students who participate in this study will receive a \$50 gift voucher.

Will participants be identifiable by being involved in this study?

Any identifying information will be removed, and participant comments will not be linked directly to them. All information and results obtained in this study will be stored in a secure way, with access restricted to relevant researchers.

Are there any risks or discomforts?

The researcher anticipates few risks from participation in this study, however, given the nature of the project, some participants could experience emotional discomfort. Students who participate in this study will be advised to contact their university counselling service, Beyondblue on Ph: 1300 224 636 or the 24-hour Lifeline Counselling Service Ph: 13 11 14, or speak with their medical practitioner, if they are experiencing any emotional discomfort or distress participating in the case study. If you have any concerns regarding anticipated or actual risks or discomforts, please do not hesitate to contact the principal researcher, Alison Nuske (alison.nuske@flinders.edu.au)

Can participants withdraw from this study?

Students who express interest in participating in the case study will be provided with an information sheet and consent form. Participation is **voluntary**. Participants may answer 'no comment' or refuse to answer any questions and are free to withdraw from the study at any time without effect or consequences.

What are we asking you do to?

We would be grateful if you could promote this study to any students registered with your services who have a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder, autism or Asperger syndrome. **If you agree to assist with recruitment for this study, please forward the attached email template to any students on the autism spectrum who are registered with your service.**

This research project has been approved by the Flinders University Social and Behavioural Research Ethics Committee (Project Number: 8242). For more information regarding ethical approval of the project only, the Executive Officer of the Committee can be contacted by telephone on (08) 8201 3116, by fax on (08) 8201 2035, or by email to human.researchethics@flinders.edu.au