

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

You will be given a copy of this information sheet.

Neurodiversity from the lens of neurodiverse university students

We would like to invite you to participate in this research project. You should only participate if you want to; choosing to take part or not to take part will not give you any academic advantage or disadvantage.

Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what your participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information (v.bhute@imperial.ac.uk).

What is the project about?

The aim of the research is to develop resources and guidelines raising awareness among university students. As part of this work, we would like to learn about the journey of neurodiverse individuals and through their lens understand how they experience day-to-day life as a university student. Various educational technologies are aimed to help neurodiverse students learn more effectively. This study will engage with neurodiverse university students to document resources which they find most helpful when studying or navigating university life.

What will my participation entail?

If you agree to participate you will be invited to an interview or focus group lasting up to 60 minutes or 120 minutes, respectively. A list of potential questions to be discussed in the interview or focus group will be provided to you beforehand. This will explore further YOUR experiences of navigating university life as a neurodiverse individual. The interview or focus group will be recorded with your consent. Recordings of interviews will be kept securely in line with Imperial guidelines and will be transcribed and anonymised. The interview will take place either in person or on MS Teams while focus group will take place in person on South Kensington campus. Refreshments will be provided during in person interview and focus group sessions. The time of the interview or focus group will be set as per your convenience. If you do not wish to participate in either the interview or focus group but still want to contribute to this study, you can provide your answers to the interview questions.

Participants will also be offered opportunities to engage beyond the interview or focus group to develop resources (avatars, storyboards, leaflets, bookmarks, etc.) to

raise awareness among students and staff. All in person sessions will be held as per mutual availability and refreshments will be provided in these sessions.

Who will interview me?

The interview will be conducted by Dr. Vijesh Bhute who is leading this study. Anything that you say will be pseudonymised prior to further analysis. All the data and key will be stored securely in a password protected folder. See privacy notice for more details on data storage.

Why is this study important?

Through this study we hope to learn from your experiences and highlight various helpful resources. Hence through participating you have an opportunity to inform your Department's and Imperial College's education and support strategy.

How will the data be used?

The data will be analysed and written up in the form of a report that will be circulated with the Department and more broadly at Imperial. The results may also be published in an academic journal. Only anonymised data will be published you will NOT be personally identifiable in any internal or external publication. A report will also be shared with the funders of this study (Royal Society of Chemistry).

It is YOUR choice whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw from the study without giving a reason. All you need to do is send us an email (v.bhute@imperial.ac.uk). You will be contacted after your interview and given a chance to review your transcript after this it will be pseudonymised and used to develop helpful resources.

If you have any questions or require more information about this study, please contact us using the following contact details: v.bhute@imperial.ac.uk

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this information

Dr. Vijesh Bhute, PhD, FHEA
Senior Teaching Fellow
Department of Chemical Engineering
Imperial College London



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