|  |
| --- |
| **CollMVLS_colour**  **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**  **‘Ex-pat experts’: An investigation into the required core skills and competencies of international staff working to strengthen mental health and psychosocial service provision in low and middle-income countries.** |
| You are being invited to participate in a research study. 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. If you decide to take part in this study, you will be given a copy of this Participant Information Sheet and the digital consent form to keep. If anything is unclear, please feel free to ask for more information by replying to this email. |
| 1. **What is the purpose of the study?** |
| Research has identified that across the world access to mental health care is restricted, particularly in many Low and Middle Countries (LMIC). There are many reasons for this with one factor being a lack of human resources. Positively, there has been greater emphasis in recent years in addressing these issues and a range of guidelines, recommendations and action plans have been produced.  Due to the lack of mental health staff in LMIC, international staff or ‘ex-pats’ often work with, and in LMIC to support the development of mental health programmes. This can be through short or long-term visits. However, there is little information or guidance regarding the role that international staff should undertake in LMIC or the skills and competencies required to undertake these roles.  This study therefore aims to investigate what the core roles and competencies should be of international staff who support programmes to improve mental health services provision in LMIC.  This study forms part a Master of Science (MSc) in Global Mental Health; an academic course undertaken by Joanne Lee at the University of Glasgow, UK. |
| 1. **Why have I been invited to participate?** |
| This study seeks the opinions of experts and specialists who work in global mental health. |
| You have been invited to take part in this study because through your membership in the WHO mhGAP forum and other related professional activities, you have demonstrated your expertise and interest in finding solutions to the challenges faced in providing mental health care in LMIC. |
| 1. **Do I have to take part?** |
|  |
| No, there is no obligation, and it is up to you to decide whether to take part. If you do decide to take part, additional copies of this information sheet will be attached to all subsequent emails for you to keep, and you will be asked to confirm that you have read it and a statement regarding consent by ticking a box on the survey webpage. If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. If you do not wish to take part or receive any further communication regarding this study then please email Joanne Lee: [2213611L@student.gla.ac.uk](mailto:2213611L@student.gla.ac.uk) and your details will be erased. |
|  |
| 1. **What will happen to me if I take part?** |
| The study will last for 4 months in total and will involve approximately 25 experts.  Over the 4-month period you will be asked to participate on three separate occasions called ‘rounds’. Each round should take approximately 20 minutes to complete.  In each round you will be sent a link to a webpage and asked for some basic non-identifiable information about yourself. Following this you will then be asked to give your professional opinion on issues relating to staff competencies in global mental health. You will not be asked about your personal experiences or for any detailed information about yourself.  In the first round you will then be asked for your written opinions on 5 questions. You will also be free to add any other comments or ideas that you may have.  The answers to these questions will then be analysed and condensed into a number of statements.  These statements will be shared with you in Round 2 and you will be asked to rate how much you agree or disagree with them.  The responses from this round will be analysed to see which of the statements most people agree with.  In the third and final round, the statements that have the most agreement will be shared with you and you will be asked to rank or state how important you feel these statements are.  You will have 2 weeks to complete each round after the email and link is sent to you. One reminder email will be sent to you towards the end of the two week period.  This type of study is called an “e-Delphi study” and it is used to try and gain consensus of opinion from experts on a topic. |
| 1. **What do I have to do?** |
| Other than your involvement in the three rounds and willingness to share your valuable opinions there is nothing else that is expected of you. |
| 1. **What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?** |
| Participating in this study will require you to commit your time over an extended period.  The study has been designed so that the risks of identifying you through your responses are minimized. |
| 1. **What are the possible benefits of taking part?** |
| There will be no personal direct benefit to you for taking part in this study. Your participation will give us a better insight into the skills and competencies that international staff need to support development of mental health services in LMIC. The outcomes may be of professional interest to yourself. |
| 1. **Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?** |
|  |
| You will only be asked to submit minimal, non-identifiable information on the webpage and the surveys will be completed anonymously.  The only record that the research team will have is that you were contacted via email and invited to participate. This information will not be shared and all data in electronic format will be stored on secure password–protected computers.  If you choose to withdraw then these details will be deleted.  All information which you provide, during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. Information included in reports from the study will be aggregated so that no individual would be identifiable from it.  No one outside of the research team or appropriate governance staff will be able to find out your name, or any other information which could identify you.  Please note that assurances on confidentiality will be strictly adhered to unless evidence of serious harm, or risk of serious harm, is uncovered. In such cases, the University may be obliged to contact relevant statutory bodies/agencies. |
| 1. **What will happen to my data?** |
| All study data will be held in accordance with The General Data Protection Regulation (2018).  To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible and we will not be collecting and storing information that links your identity to your responses in the survey. Your anonymous opinions and responses will be stored for 10 years after the study has finished.  Your rights to access, change or move the information we store may be limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the anonymous survey responses that we have already obtained, and we will delete your contact information from our records. You can find out more about how we use your information from Dr Breda Cullen, breda.cullen@glasgow.ac.uk  Your identifiable information (name and email address) might be shared with people who check that the study is done properly, for governance purposes.  The information you provide will form part of the study result that may be published in student dissertations, presentations and expert journals and on the internet for other researchers to use. Your name will not appear in any publication. |
| 1. **What will happen to the results of the research study?** |
| The results of the study will be submitted to the University of Glasgow in the form of a dissertation for the MSc in Global Mental Health. The results may also be submitted for publication in an academic journal. A link to any such published report will be emailed to you. Any direct quotes included in the study reports will not be identifiable. |
| 1. **Who is organising and funding the research?** |
| There are no external organisations other than the researchers at the University of Glasgow involved or funding this research. |
| 1. **Who has reviewed the study?** |
| The project has been reviewed by the College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences Ethics Committee at the University of Glasgow. |
| 1. **Contact for Further Information:** |
| For further information about this study you can contact:  Joanne Lee email: [2213611L@student.gla.ac.uk](mailto:2213611L@student.gla.ac.uk)  Breda Cullen (research supervisor) email: [Breda.Cullen@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Breda.Cullen@glasgow.ac.uk) |
| **Thank you for reading this Information Sheet.** |
|  |