

# Participant Information Sheet

Study title: Not going to university and social class

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You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide to take part it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask the researcher/s if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take some time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

Thank you for reading this.

**Purpose of the research**

The purpose of this research project is to investigate the career decisions of pupils who have the qualifications to go to university but are choosing another route. This is a research project being conducted by Elysha Ramage a Ph.D researcher at the University of Glasgow. You are invited to participate in this research project because you are an S5 or S6 pupil who is planning to leave school in May 2021.

**Your participation in the study**

Your participation in this research study is voluntary. You may choose not to participate. If you decide to participate in this research, you may withdraw at any time. If you decide not to participate in this study or if you withdraw from participating at any time, you will not be penalised.

This is a longitudinal research project. This means that I am researching career decisions over two years. I would call you for a follow up phone interview in six months, one year, eighteen months after this interview. In two years time there would be one final face-to-face interview.

The procedure involves a 1-2-1- face-to-face interview which will take no more than one hour. The interview will be audio-recorded. Due to the current COVID-19 crisis, all interviews will take place within COVID-19 regulations and guidelines. This could mean that the interview may take place virtually through Microsoft Teams if this is deemed the most appropriate method.

This interview asks questions about your plans for when you leave school, your qualifications, some background information, your future plans, your perceptions of university and your skillset. You do not need to answer any questions you do not want to, and you don’t need to give a reason for not wanting to answer them. You can indicate this by asking me to skip to the next question.

**Confidentiality**

* Please note that whilst confidentiality will be maintained as far as it possible, unless during our conversation I hear anything which makes me worried that someone might be in danger of harm, I might have to inform relevant agencies of this. If this was the case, I would inform you of any decisions that might limit your confidentiality.
* Your personal details will be kept separately to this recording and transcription and an identifying code will be given. Any extracts of data that are included in the study will be identified by a pseudonym and any identifying details such as your school or home-location will be removed. Please note that confidentiality may not be guaranteed; due to the limited size of the participant sample.

**How your data will be used**

* Your data will be stored in line with University of Glasgow guidelines. It will be used to produce my Ph.D. theses and potential the production of conference papers and journal articles
* It will be stored securely for the duration of the project. After the project has completed all personal contact data will be destroyed and only the data with pseudonym will be stored for 10years in line University of Glasgow guidance

The findings of this research can be accessed upon request at: e.ramage.1@research.gla.ac.uk

This research is funded by the University of Glasgow

This project has been considered and approved by the College Research Ethics Committee

To pursue any complaint about the conduct of the research: contact the College of Social Sciences Ethics Officer, Dr Muir Houston, email: Muir.Houston@glasgow.ac.uk

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