

Student Thesis Conference 2017 Research Project

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The aim of this research is to explore students' experiences and feelings of participating in the Student Thesis Conference (STC). You have received this letter because you are student in Sport, Health and Exercise Science.

What happens if I volunteer to take part in this project? We will be asking you to complete a series of questionnaires relating to STC – one before the conference (the pre-conference questionnaire), one on the day of the conference (the mid-questionnaire) and one at the end of the semester (the post-questionnaire). Each questionnaire will include an abbreviated version of this consent form, which you will be asked to tick to indicate that you are prepared to participate in the study. There are 2 other activities we will also be asking you to contribute to:

1. One day of STC we will also be conducting short audio interviews with students and staff to gather information about their thoughts of the day. These interviews will either be conducted by the project members or a post-graduate research intern working on the project. These interviews will be voluntary, and will be asked for specific consent for us to record these interviews on the day itself.
2. We will be incorporating the contents of social media relating to the conference through either #STC2017 or via the @UoHSportScience Twitter account, noting that posts are already in the public domain. We will only be analysing the content of any social media posts, and you not will be identified as the author of these posts in any resulting publication.

Are there any financial rewards or risks? There are no financial rewards or risks for you taking part. Your contribution to the project is a voluntary one and you will only be identifiable to the project team by your student number. It is possible as the project progresses we may want to collect additional data from you via interviews and/or focus groups, but you will only be contacted if you have given your permission to us to do so.

Will participation involve any embarrassment or psychological stress? No. If you feel stressed, you are free to withdraw at any point.

How will my data be kept confidential? Questionnaires are completed anonymously, so responses will not be attributed to you. You will be asked to provide your student number on the questionnaire, however your student number will only be used to track participants within the study, and will not be used to identify you at any point in the project. Your signed consent sheet and completed questionnaire will be kept securely in a locked office within the Hardy Building (Biological Sciences). A copy of this Informed Consent document is available for you to review on the 'Research' page of the Conference website www.hull.ac.uk/stc/research/

How will my data be used? The results of our project will allow us to gain a better understanding of the value of STC on academic progress, confidence and employability. We will be exploring the attitudes of different groups towards STC, so will be collecting demographic information (gender, year of study etc). It is also our intention to seek permission from the University to have access to year end average module marks and final degree classification for students who have completed the survey so that we can relate our findings to your academic achievement. We will also compare students with those of academic staff and alumni. Ultimately we hope to be able to use the results of this project to enhance the impact of STC, and to publish our results in a research paper so we share our findings with other universities.

Who reviewed the study? The Sport, Health, and Exercise Science Ethics Committee.

What happens if I am unhappy during the study? You are free to withdraw at any point. If you are concerned that regulations are being infringed, or that your interests are otherwise being ignored, neglected or denied, you should inform Dr Andrew Garrett, Chair of the Sport, Health and Exercise Research Ethics Committee, who will investigate your complaint (Tel: 01482 463866; Email: a.garrett@hull.ac.uk)

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this project.

Katharine, Graham and Caroline

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