

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

[Perceptions of career-readiness amongst undergraduate chemistry students]

Name of Researcher: Anand Aggarwal

Contact details of Researcher: agsa21@bath.ac.uk

Name of Supervisor / Co-investigator: Dr Gan Shermer

Contact details of Supervisor / Co-investigator: ch9dgn@bath.ac.uk

This information sheet forms part of the process of informed consent. It should tell you what the research is about and what taking part will involve. Please read this information sheet carefully and ask one of the researchers named above if you have any questions.

1. What is the purpose of the project?

To explore the career-readiness of Chemistry undergraduate students i.e at what stage in their degree they feel career ready and how they came to that conclusion. This will be based in the context of the Faculty of Science students at Bath.

2. Why have I been invited to take part?

You are either a current chemistry undergraduate student OR you are a student within the wider Faculty of Science at the University of Bath.

3. Do I have to take part?

It is completely up to you to decide if you would like to take part or not. Before you decide, you should read the information in this sheet carefully and ask any questions you may have. If you agree to take part, you will then be asked to sign a consent form. However, if at any time you decide you no longer wish to take part in this project, you are free to withdraw your participation without giving a reason.

4. What would taking part involve?

Participation involves two aspects, an online survey and a focus group. All eligible students can participate and complete the survey which should take no more than 15 minutes of your time. At the end of the survey, you can register interest in

participating in a focus group at a later date. This is subject to invitation and would take no more than 2 hours of your time.

5. What are the exclusion criteria? (or - are there reasons why I should not take part?)

There is no exclusion criteria.

6. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no specific benefits to you as an individual in taking part in the project. However, the information that you and other participants provide in this project will help us to understand how students in future years can be better supported in being more career ready during their undergraduate degree.

7. What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

We do not anticipate any disadvantages to you taking part in the project.

If the questionnaire asks a question that you do not want to answer for any reason, you can choose not to answer.

If the focus group moderator asks any questions that make you feel uncomfortable or appear upset, you are free to leave at any time.

8. Who will have access to the information that I provide?

Only the research team will have access to information that you provide, and this information will be treated as confidential. Your data will be aggregated and anonymised at the final report stage for sharing within the Department of Chemistry at the University of Bath.

9. What will happen to the data collected and results of the project?

We will treat all information that you provide as confidential and store it securely at the University of Bath in a locked room or on a password-protected file on the University's secure server (OneDrive). Storage of data will be done in accordance with current UK data protection legislation. Recorded data will be stored securely and confidentially in the University archives for a minimum of 10 years. Your name or any other identifying information will not be disclosed in any presentation or publication of the research.

After the project has finished, we can provide you with a summary of the project results if you would like. This summary will not include any identifiable information and will only show the overall findings of the project.

11. Who has reviewed the project?

This project has been given a favourable ethics opinion by the University of Bath.

12. How can I withdraw from the project?

If you wish to withdraw your participation before completing all parts of the project, you can tell one of the researchers in person, or by email or telephone. You can withdraw from the project at any time without needing to give a reason and without any penalty.

If for any reason you wish to withdraw your data, please contact one of the researchers within one week of your participation. After this date it will not be possible to withdraw your data as some results may have been analysed or anonymised. Your individual results will not be identifiable in any presentation or publication.

13. University of Bath privacy notice

The University of Bath privacy notice can be found here:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/university-of-bath-privacy-notice-for-research-participants/>.

14. What happens if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of the project, you should ask to speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer any questions. If they are unable to resolve your concern or you wish to make a complaint regarding the project, please contact the Research Governance and Compliance Team at research-ethics@bath.ac.uk.

15. Who should I contact for more information?

Thank you for your interest in this project. Please do not hesitate to contact the researcher, Anand Aggarwal, if you would like more information.

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