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Prof. Priscilla Harries  
Head of Graduate Research School and Researcher Development  
Kingston University

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**Introduction to Alfred Mayaki – Enrolled on NIHR ARC South London Research Leadership Academy in 2025**

Dear Prof. Harries,

My name is Alfred Mayaki, I am an Open University student. I am currently accepted as a participant on the NIHR ARC South London Research Leadership Academy. I am hoping to learn a huge amount through this six-month programme; we are scheduled for some interesting discussions with some outstanding speakers, as well as our action learning sets which start on 15 January 2025.

I just wished to introduce myself and my reasons for applying to participate in the Academy. Your colleague Saskia Perks is to be thanked for the suggestion which brought the Academy to my attention. Saskia is a Lived Experience Research Ambassador who I encountered at one of my monthly visits to Marina House's mental health practice on Denmark Hill. She offered her e-mail as she represents NIHR ARC South London, and I had previously subscribed to NIHR ARC North Thames' mailing list as I explained. Upon correspondence via e-mail into how I could join NIHR ARC's South London's mailing list, the above KCL ARC short course was recommended.

My reasons for approaching Saskia and her colleague on the occasion we met was simply because I have an interest in increasing my understanding of Randomised Control Trials (RCTs), which are a factor of Gifford's Hierarchy of Evidence and key module component on my Open University course (MSc in Human Resource Management). Having just negotiated the base of Gifford's Hierarchy which references treatment-only *and* controlled longitudinal studies, the next level up – which happens to be RCTs – is of the utmost priority. I have proposed this question to Saskia but: Do you happen to have any suggestions as to course materials which cover RCTs to the required depth or are RCTs covered on the Academy's programme (the course I have just been accepted into)?

Here is a link to my website: <https://sites.google.com/view/alfredmayaki/home>. I look forward to meeting you in person during our time together and I thank you greatly for your time and wish you and yours all the best during the holiday period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alfred Mayaki'.

**Alfred Anate Mayaki (Student)**