

IRB SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSAL

Successful Caribbean Students in Higher Education

1. The sources of potential subjects will be selected from Caribbean organizations (e.g. Caribbean Student Organization) and minority organizations (e.g. multicultural offices) on American university campuses. Sources of subjects will also be selected from universities that have a specialized Caribbean department. The subject population will be willing Caribbean students. The study will include approximately 15 participants. The age of participants will be 19 years of age and older. The participants can be either male or female. The ethnic background of participants will be participants of West Indian descent. Caribbean students from the following islands will be considered for study participation Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Montserrat, St. Barthélemy, St. Croix, St. George, St. John, Saint Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Saint Martin, St. Thomas, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. Participants must be of good health to participate in the study. Inclusion in the study can include Caribbean descendants (parent(s) or family is from the Caribbean) or students that are native-born Caribbean immigrants. West Indian ethnicity of participants must be only from the selected above Caribbean islands. For participants to be included in the study they must be 19 years of age or older. The criteria for inclusion will be current undergraduate students or graduate students from 4-year American colleges or universities. Undergraduate participants must have completed at least one full academic year consisting of at least 24 credit hours for any semester combination for inclusion. Caribbean graduates must have acquired their bachelors or advanced degree from a 4-year college or university in the United States for inclusion. GPA of participants must be 3.0 or higher for inclusion. Participants that are not of Caribbean ethnicity are excluded. Participants that are of Caribbean ethnicity from any other unlisted Caribbean islands are excluded from the study. Participants that are 18 years of age or younger are excluded. Participants that did not attend or graduate from a 4-year American college institution are excluded. Participants that have not completed at least 24 credit hours are excluded. Participants that have below a 3.0 GPA are excluded from the study.
2. The recruitment of subjects will be solicited from organization leaders in Caribbean organization, minority organizations, and Caribbean

departments on American university campuses by phone and e-mail letter. I will choose universities for solicitation with known Caribbean populations and organizations. University flyers will be utilized on approximately ten campuses to solicit participants. The Caribbean Study website (specifically www.caribbeanstudy.weebly.com) will also be used to solicit Caribbean participants and also provide study and contact information to deciding participants. Informed consent will be used with all participants. I will seek informed consent. In-person interviews will obtain signed informed consent forms. E-mail interviews will confirm consent with online submission field located on the consent page of the (www.caribbeanstudy.weebly.com) website. Due to lack of financial means to travel across the United States, email interviews will be given to non-local student residents with a specifically created email: Caribbeangrad@gmail.com for this study. Because my subject population, primarily resides in the Eastern region of the United States I believe I will be most successful obtaining participants from this region. Email interviewing also allows me to have access to participants' exact words for quoting in my thesis. E-mail interviewees must agree to their consent before completing an email interview. In email interviews, signed written consent will not be obtained by mail due to confidentiality. Scanned and emailed consent forms will also not be required because some participants may not have access to a scanner. Refer to the consent forms, and flyer announcements for information that I will provide to the potential respondents.

3. This study will use qualitative research methods for assessing the participants' responses to interview questions. For all interview candidates, I will provide my phone number and email address to determine if they qualify for participating in my study and answer any questions they may have. I will use my own audio tape-recorder for in-person interviews. I will ask the participants questions from my interview guide. I will transcribe the in-person interviews. In e-mail interviews I will provide the participants with a list of interview questions. In the blank spaces they can respond to each question. I will store all consent forms and recordings in a locked file in my own home office. After completion of my academic theses and academic papers I will destroy these items.
4. There may be minimal psychological risk by the participants reliving their college experiences. There are no alternative methods for assessing the college experiences of Caribbean students without interviewing the participants. No dataset has yet to specifically interview or identify Caribbean students and their college experiences.

4. In order to minimize risk, participants will be informed of the topics to be discussed before the interview. All participants will be reminded that they can stop the interview at any time or if they feel uncomfortable. The consent form will include a mental health resource list and the contact information of the National Youth Crisis Hotline which operates seven days a week and 24 Hours a day. The National Youth Crisis Hotline provides counseling services and referrals for local counseling. The National Youth Crisis Hotline number is 1-800-442-HOPE (4673). I will use pseudonyms for all names and will not mention in my thesis or any paper how I got access to specific respondents. For example, I will not say, "Jane, who I contacted via a Caribbean organization..."
5. The potential benefit gained to the participants is that they will be contributing to new knowledge about Caribbean students in higher education. The participants will also be giving Caribbean students a voice about their experiences in higher education. Caribbean students may also feel that their college experiences are valuable to society by being a part of a Caribbean study. These students will be able to discuss their experiences with a non-judgmental researcher.
6. No compensation, extra credit, or course credit will be given to the participants.
7. The anticipated benefits outweigh the minimal psychological risk because the experiences of Caribbean students have yet to be substantially discussed in the previous literature. This study will contribute to the knowledge of society by providing research on this target population.
8. No specific sites or agencies will be used.
9. As Masters Student in the Department of Sociology, this proposal meets the requirements of a qualitative research study. My sponsor faculty member is Patti Giuffre.
10. This thesis proposal has been approved by my thesis committee.
11. This proposed study has not been reviewed/approved by another IRB.

12. I am the only individual that will have access to the recorded interviews and transcripts. This research is for my master's thesis, academic conference papers, and publications in academic journals.

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Consent Form

Research on Successful Caribbean Students in Higher Education

Before agree to participate in this research study, it is important that you read and understand the following explanation of the purpose, benefits and risks of the study and how it will be conducted. My name is Christina Thomas. I am a graduate student at Texas State University in the Department of Sociology. You may contact me by e-mail at caribbeangrad@gmail.com or by telephone at (512) 245-3035.

Purpose of the Research: You are being asked to participate in research about Caribbean students and graduates that are attending or have graduated from a 4-year university or college in the United States. This study is trying to understand your college experiences, motivations and goals for attending or graduating from college. This study also wants to learn more about your Caribbean family and culture and how this has guided your college experiences. You volunteered for this study because you have at least a 3.0 GPA and you or your parents are from the Caribbean. This research is for my master's thesis, academic conference papers, and publications in academic journals.

Study Procedures: If you decide to participate, you will take part in a one-on-one face-to-face In-depth interview with me. The interview will be audio-tape-recorded and should take no more than one hour of your time. Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may withdraw from the interview at any time or choose not to answer any question if you feel uncomfortable. You can withdraw from the study without prejudice or jeopardy to your standing with Texas State University. Answering these questions will take approximately one hour of your time. Examples of the questions asked include the following: ["If you could give advice to a new Caribbean student about being successful in college, what would you tell them?" "What are some Caribbean values that your family thinks are important?" "Why do you want to become a college graduate?"]. These interview questions are intended to ask you questions about your Caribbean culture and your college experiences as a successful Caribbean student. The location of the interview will occur in a place that is comfortable for you. These survey questions are intended to all you to discuss your Caribbean culture and your college experiences as a successful Caribbean student.

Foreseeable Risks: The potential risks involved in this study are minimal. I will protect your identity. You may experience some emotional discomfort from discussing your college experiences as a Caribbean student. The National Youth Crisis Hotline provides counseling services and referrals for local counseling seven days a week and 24 Hours a day. The National Youth Crisis Hotline number is 1-800-442-HOPE (4673). Other resources that might be helpful to you are: [National Clearinghouse on Family Support and Children's Mental Health 1-800-628-1696 or 24 Hour Crisis Hotline 1-877-466-0660 (Toll Free)]. If you use the services of a counselor, fees will be your own. You may withdraw at any time after signing this form should you choose to do so.

Benefits of participating in this research: I expect that this study will benefit you and other Caribbean students. You can discuss your experiences in detail. Your participation in this study

will also contribute to my field of study in Sociology on understanding successful Caribbean students in higher education. There is no financial compensation for participation in the study. A summary of the findings can be provided to you upon completion of the study, if requested. You can contact the researcher, Christina Thomas for this information by e-mail at caribbeangrad@gmail.com or by telephone at (512) 245-3035.

Procedures for Maintaining Confidentiality of Research Records: Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain **strictly confidential**. Audio files will be assigned a code number so your name will never be attached to the audio files. Only I, the interviewer will hear your interview on the digital recorder, and I will keep the recorder and transcripts in a locked file cabinet in my home until the study is finished. At that time, I will erase the recordings of your interview. When I describe the information obtained an alias or false name will be used in place of your true name or identity and the name of your workplace. I will not transcribe any identifying information (including the name of your university or any person or organization that you mention during the interview).

Questions about the Study or rights as a participant: If you have any questions about the study, you may contact Christina Thomas at telephone number (512) 245-3035. This research study has been approved by the Texas State University-San Marcos Institutional Review Board (IRB) (#_____). Contact the Texas State University IRB chair, Dr. Jon Lasser (512-245-3413 –lasser@txstate.edu), or to Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist (512-245-2102) with any questions regarding the rights of research subjects.

Research Participants' Rights: Your signature below indicates that you have read or have had read to you all of the above and that you confirm all of the following:

- *Christina Thomas* has explained the study to you and answered all of your questions. You have been told the possible benefits and the potential risks and/or discomforts of the study.
- You understand that you do not have to take part in this study, and your refusal to participate or your decision to withdraw him/her from the study will involve no penalty or loss of rights or benefits.
- You understand why the study is being conducted and how it will be performed.
- You understand your rights as a research participant and you voluntarily consent to participation in this study.
- You have received a copy of this form.

Signature of Respondent

Date

Signature of Principal Investigator or Designee

Date

Consent Form

Research on Successful Caribbean Students in Higher Education

Before agree to participate in this research study, it is important that you read and understand the following explanation of the purpose, benefits and risks of the study and how it will be conducted. My name is Christina Thomas. I am a graduate student at Texas State University in the Department of Sociology. You may contact me by e-mail at caribbeangrad@gmail.com or by telephone at (512) 245-3035.

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Study Procedures: The study involves you answering open-ended questions and will be conducted via e-mail. Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may withdraw from the interview at any time or choose not to answer any question if you feel uncomfortable. You can withdraw from the study without prejudice or jeopardy to your standing with Texas State University. Answering these questions will take approximately one hour of your time. Examples of the questions asked include the following: ["If you could give advice to a new Caribbean student about being successful in college, what would you tell them?" "What are some Caribbean values that your family thinks are important?" "Why do you want to become a college graduate?"]. These interview questions are intended to ask you questions about your Caribbean culture and your college experiences as a successful Caribbean student. The location of the interview will occur in a place that is comfortable for you. These survey questions are intended to all you to discuss your Caribbean culture and your college experiences as a successful Caribbean student.

Foreseeable Risks: The potential risks involved in this study are minimal. I will protect your identity. You may experience some emotional discomfort from discussing your college experiences as a Caribbean student. The National Youth Crisis Hotline provides counseling services and referrals for local counseling seven days a week and 24 Hours a day. The National Youth Crisis Hotline number is 1-800-442-HOPE (4673). Other resources that might be helpful to you are: [National Clearinghouse on Family Support and Children's Mental Health 1-800-628-1696 or 24 Hour Crisis Hotline 1-877-466-0660 (Toll Free)]. If you use the services of a counselor, fees will be your own. You may withdraw at any time after signing this form should you choose to do so.

Benefits of participating in this research: I expect that this study will benefit you and other Caribbean students. You can discuss your experiences in detail. Your participation in this study will also contribute to my field of study in Sociology on understanding successful Caribbean students in higher education. There is no financial compensation for participation in the study. A

summary of the findings can be provided to you upon completion of the study, if requested. You can contact the researcher, Christina Thomas for this information by e-mail at caribbeangrad@gmail.com or by telephone at (512) 245-3035.

Procedures for Maintaining Confidentiality of Research Records: Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain **strictly confidential**. I am the only person that will have access to your interview responses and your name and any name you mention (including the name of your university or organization) will be changed to protect your identity. Data will be password protected in my locked office. I will use your interview responses for my master's thesis, academic conference papers, and publication in academic journals. After completion of thesis, your audio recording will be destroyed. Confidential demographic and questionnaires will be kept for five years or until the completion of the academic projects listed above.

Questions about the Study or rights as a participant: If you have any questions about the study, you may contact Christina Thomas at telephone number (512) 245-3035. This research study has been approved by the Texas State University-San Marcos Institutional Review Board (IRB) (# _____). Contact the Texas State University IRB chair, Dr. Jon Lasser (512-245-3413 –lasser@txstate.edu), or to Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist (512-245-2102) with any questions regarding the rights of research subjects.

Research Participants' Rights: Your online submission indicates that you have read or have had read to you all of the above and that you confirm all of the following:

- Christina Thomas has explained the study to you and answered all of your questions. You have been told the possible benefits and the potential risks and/or discomforts of the study.
- You understand that you do not have to take part in this study, and your refusal to participate or your decision to withdraw him/her from the study will involve no penalty or loss of rights or benefits.
- You understand why the study is being conducted and how it will be performed.
- You understand your rights as a research participant and you voluntarily consent to participation in this study.
- You have printed a copy of this form for your records.

RESPONDENT Online Submission Signature

DATE

RESEARCHER ONLINE SIGNATURE

DATE

SEEKING CARIBBEAN STUDENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH

Study of Successful Caribbean Students in Higher Education
Texas State University IRB Approval #

This research is based on a voluntary study examining the college experiences of successful Caribbean students in higher education. The study involves answering open-ended questions and will be conducted in-person or via e-mail. Examples of the questions asked include the following: ["If you could give advice to a new Caribbean student about being successful in college, what would you tell them?" and "Why do you want to become a college graduate?"]. These interview questions are intended to ask you questions about your Caribbean culture and your college experiences as a successful Caribbean student. I will use interview responses for my master's thesis, academic conference papers, and publication in academic journals.

Eligibility

- Caribbean student or graduate.
- 18 yrs old or older.
- GPA of 3.0 or higher.

You can access more information for the study at www.caribbeanstudy.weebly.com or please contact me, Christina Thomas at caribbeangrad@gmail.com or (512) 245-3035.

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DOCUMENT THAT I WILL E-MAIL TO Caribbean and Minority Student Organizations:

Re: Caribbean Student Research Study

Dear Caribbean and Minority Student Organizations:

My name is Christina Thomas. I am a graduate student at Texas State University in the Department of Sociology. You may contact me by e-mail at caribbeangrad@gmail.com or by telephone at (512) 245-3035. I am conducting a study examining the college experiences of successful Caribbean students in higher education. I will use interview responses for my master's thesis, academic conference papers, and publication in academic journals.

This research study is approved by the Texas State University-San Marcos Institutional Review Board (IRB) (#_____). Participant eligibility is located on the second and third page of this document.

A review of your organization suggests that you may have access to successful Caribbean students on your university campus. As a Caribbean student myself, it is very important to me that academia understand the true experiences of Caribbean students.

If interested in this study please forward this information to Caribbean students or graduates:

The study involves you answering open-ended questions and will be conducted via e-mail. Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may withdraw from the interview at any time or choose not to answer any question if you feel uncomfortable. You can withdraw from the study without prejudice or jeopardy to your standing with Texas State University. Answering these questions will take approximately one hour of your time. Examples of the questions asked include the following: ["If you could give advice to a new Caribbean student about being successful in college, what would you tell them?" "What are some Caribbean values that your family thinks are important?" "Why do you want to become a college graduate?"]. These interview questions are intended to ask you questions about your Caribbean culture and your college experiences as a successful Caribbean student. The location of the interview will occur in a place that is comfortable for you. These survey questions are intended to allow you to discuss your Caribbean culture and your college experiences as a successful Caribbean student.

You can access more information for the study at www.caribbeanstudy.weebly.com or please contact me at caribbeangrad@gmail.com or by telephone at (512) 245-3035.

Sincerely,

Ms. Christina Thomas

Study Participant Eligibility:

I am looking for Caribbean college students or graduates. I am looking for Caribbean descendants (your parents or family is from the Caribbean) or you are a native-born Caribbean immigrant.

- You are 19 years of age or older.
- You have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Your racial ethnicity is of Caribbean descent from one of the below listed islands.
- You are attending a 4-year college or university and have completed at least one full academic year or you have obtained a college degree or higher at a 4-year college or university in the United States.
- Completed 24 college/university credit hours or more

If you are a Caribbean descendant or native immigrant from **only** the following islands you can participate:

1. Anguilla
2. Antigua and Barbuda
3. Barbados
4. British Virgin Islands
5. Dominica
6. Grenada
7. Guadeloupe
8. Martinique
9. Montserrat
10. Saint Barthélemy
11. St. Croix
12. St. George
13. St. John
14. Saint Kitts and Nevis
15. Saint Lucia

16. Saint Martin
17. St. Thomas
18. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
19. Trinidad and Tobago
20. US Virgin Islands
21. Jamaica

Study of Caribbean Students in Higher Education

Welcome to the Caribbean Research Study of Undergraduate and Graduate Students in Higher Education.

This research study is pending approval by the Texas State University-San Marcos Institutional Review Board (IRB) (#_____).

Home

Researcher & Contact Information

Research Study & Interviewing

Consent

Links

Purpose:

This study is trying to understand your college experiences and motivations and goals for attending or graduating from college. This study also wants to learn more about your Caribbean family and culture and how this has guided your college experiences.

Participant Eligibility:

- 1. You have Caribbean ethnicity from one of the below listed islands. (I am looking for Caribbean descendants (your parents or family is from the Caribbean) or you are a native-born Caribbean immigrant).**
- 2. You are 19 years of age or older.**
- 3. You have a 3.0 GPA or higher.**
- 4. You are a college student with at least 24 credit hours or a graduate from a 4-year college or university in the United States.**

Selected Islands:

Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Montserrat, St. Barthélemy, St. Croix, St. George, St. John, Saint Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Martin, St. Thomas, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, US Virgin Islands and Jamaica.

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Study of Caribbean Students in Higher Education

Home

Researcher & Contact
information

Research Study & Interviewing

Consent

Links



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myself, it is very important to me that academia understand the true experiences of Caribbean students. I would appreciate your help in contributing to this new knowledge in the academic field.

Email: caribbeangrad@gmail.com

By Phone: (512) 245-3035, checked weekly

(For Phone Messages, Please Leave Name and Phone Number with Area Code)

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Interviewing

[Home](#)

[Researcher & Contact Information](#)

[Research Study & Interviewing](#)

[Consent](#)

[Links](#)

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Study of Caribbean Students in Higher Education

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[Consent](#)

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By entering my information below:

- I agree to participate in the study voluntarily.
- I understand that I can withdraw from the study at any time.
- I agree that I meet all the requirements to participate.
- I have reviewed and have printed a copy of the consent form.
- E-mail of the online survey from the researcher is her signature of consent to also follow this agreement.

Please enter your information for voluntary consent:

Name *

First

Last

Email *

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