

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

(1) What is this study about?

You are invited to take part in a research study about the experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals who are currently enrolled in a university or institute of higher learning in Vietnam. You have been invited to participate in this study because you are currently enrolled as a student at a University or higher education institution in Vietnam. This Participant Information Sheet tells you about the research study. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the study. Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that you do not understand or want to know more about.

Participation in this research study is voluntary. By completing the questionnaire linked to this study you give consent to take part in this study, and you are telling us that you:

- ✓ Understand what you have read.
- ✓ Agree to take part in the research study as outlined below.
- ✓ Agree to the use of your personal information as described.
- ✓ You have received a copy of this Participant Information Sheet to keep.

(2) Who is running the study?

The study is being carried out by the following researcher(s): Prof Fabio Arico (School of Economics, University of East Anglia); Dr Boon Han Koh (Department of Economics, University of Exeter); Professor Pranee Liamputtong and Ms Trinh Thi Thuy Lien (VinUniversity).

This study is being funded by British Council.

(3) What will the study involve for me?

The study consists of a questionnaire where you will be asked questions about your gender and sexual orientation, as well as your views and experiences of being a student at university.

(4) How much of my time will the study take?

Completing this questionnaire should take about 20 minutes.

(5) Do I have to be in the study? Can I withdraw from the study once I have started?

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part. Your decision whether to participate will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at the University of Exeter, University of East Anglia, or VinUniversity now or in the future.

If you decide to take part in the study, you can withdraw your consent up to the point when the questionnaire is submitted. Specifically, once we close the survey, your data will be fully anonymized in the dataset by 31 December 2023 (see #9 below). As such, after this date, it will no longer be possible to identify and remove the specific data point generated by your participation.

(6) What are the consequences if I withdraw from the study?

You are free to stop filling out the questionnaire at any time. There will be no consequences for you.

(7) Are there any risks or costs associated with being in the study?

Aside from giving up your time, we do not expect that there will be any risks or costs associated with taking part in this study.

(8) Are there any benefits associated with being in the study?

You may receive a financial incentive to reward you for correctly estimating what other respondents think. The study's findings are expected to improve our understanding of the challenges faced by LGBTQ+ students in the higher education sector in Vietnam and will help inform the development of policy interventions designed to address some of these challenges.

(9) What will happen to the information provided by me and the data collected during the study?

The research team will refer to you using codes (e.g., participant 1, P1). It is possible that individual participants may be identified by the researchers based on your responses to the questions (such as university name, field of study, sexual orientation). However, the researchers will ensure that the dataset will be fully anonymized by: (1) recoding responses to questions such as university names, field of study, sexual and gender identity, etc.; and/or (2) aggregating these responses as appropriate, such that anonymity is preserved in the public-facing dataset and report. This process will be completed at the conclusion of the data-collection phase (by 31 December 2023). Hence, all data you share will be anonymized prior to analysis. In any public facing report and/or dataset, no reference will be made to your exact age, field of study, university, etc. Whenever a name, a location, or anything that could trace it back to you, it will be discarded or recoded in the public facing report and/or dataset.

Your personal data and information will only be used as outlined in this Participant Information Sheet, unless you consent otherwise. Data management will follow the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) and UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), and the University of East Anglia's Research Data Management Policy.

The information you provide will be stored securely and your identity will be kept strictly confidential, except as required by law. Study findings may be published, but you will not be identified in these publications if you decide to participate in this study.

Study data may also be deposited in a repository to allow it to be made available for scholarly and educational purposes. The data will be kept for at least 10 years beyond the last date the data were accessed. The deposited data will not include your name or any identifiable information about you.

(10) What if I would like further information about the study?

When you have read this information, Professor Fabio Arico (University of East Anglia, f.arico@uea.ac.uk), Dr Boon Han Koh (University of Exeter, b.koh@exeter.ac.uk), Professor Pranee Liamputtong (VinUniversity, pranee.l@vinuni.edu.vn), and/or Ms Trinh Thi Thuy Lien (VinUniversity, lien.ttt@vinuni.edu.vn) will be available to discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have.

(11) Will I be told the results of the study?

You have a right to receive feedback about the overall results of this study. You can tell us that you wish to receive feedback by sending an email to any researcher on this project (see contact details below). This feedback will be in the form of a report and will be made accessible to participants at the conclusion of the project.

(12) What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the study?

If there is a problem please let me know. You can contact any of the researchers:

Professor Fabio Arico (University of East Anglia, f.arico@uea.ac.uk)

Dr Boon Han Koh (University of Exeter, b.koh@exeter.ac.uk)

Professor Pranee Liamputtong (VinUniversity, pranee.l@vinuni.edu.vn)

Ms Trinh Thi Thuy Lien (VinUniversity, lien.ttt@vinuni.edu.vn)

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the Head of the School of Economics (Dr. Emiliya Lazarova, e.lazarova@uea.ac.uk).

(13) How do I know that this study has been approved to take place?

To protect your safety, rights, well-being, and dignity, all research at the University of East Anglia is reviewed by a Research Ethics Body. This research was approved by the ECO S-REC (School of Economics Research Ethics Subcommittee) and the Ethics Committee at the University of Exeter, as well as the Ethics Committee of Vinmec International Hospital, Vietnam.

(14) What is the general data protection information I need to be informed about?

According to data protection legislation, we are required to inform you that the legal basis for processing your data as listed in Article 6(1) of the UK GDPR is because this allows us to process personal data when it is necessary to perform our public tasks as a University.

In addition to the specific information provided above about why your personal data is required and how it will be used, there is also some general information that needs to be provided for you:

- The data controller is the University of East Anglia.
- For further information, you can contact the University's Data Protection Officer at dataprotection@uea.ac.uk
- You can also find out more about your data protection rights at the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).
- If you are unhappy with how your personal data has been used, please contact the University's Data Protection Officer at dataprotection@uea.ac.uk in the first instance.

Please also refer to Qualtrics' privacy statement: <https://www.qualtrics.com/privacy-statement/>.

(15) OK, I want to take part – what do I do next?

At the bottom of the page, please click on "I consent", and this will be taken as confirmation that you have consented to participate in the study.

(16) Further information

This information was last updated on 31 October 2023.

You may download a PDF copy of this information sheet if you wish to do so.