



Parents and Carers of School-Aged Students on the Autism Spectrum

Participant Information Sheet

Introduction

Autism&Uni is a European project that aims to make it easier for students on the autism spectrum to transition from school and college to university. We also want to help students make the most of their university experience when they are there, and support them to learn the skills they need to negotiate student life and studies successfully. Autism&Uni will create interactive tools to enable students on the autism spectrum to find out about the challenges they may encounter in higher education, and to immerse themselves in typical scenarios. These can be used independently or with the help of professionals in HE institutions.

How can I participate?

We invite you to take part in this research because we feel that your experience as a parent or carer of a young student on the autism spectrum can contribute to our understanding of the challenges of entering and succeeding in higher education. We would like to learn about your child's current situation, ambitions to enter higher education and the current support he/she receives.

Do I have to take part?

No. Any participation is voluntary and up to the point when you submit your questionnaire responses, you are free to withdraw without any explanation or reason.

What we will do with your information

We will use the understanding and knowledge gained from your information in our research and our findings will be published. We will not be sharing information about you outside the research team. Where we ask for your name or contact details, it is for the administration of the research only. Your responses will be anonymous and it will not be possible to identify you from any published material.

If you would like to be notified when results of this research are available online, please enter your email address when prompted at the end of the questionnaire. Where we ask for your email address, it is for the stated purpose only.

Contact for further information

If you have any questions about the information we have given you, or about the way your contribution will be used, please contact us before completing the questionnaire.

Project website: www.autism-uni.org

Email: autism-uni@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Sponsor: Leeds Beckett University

Lead researcher: Dr Marc Fabri

Personal Details

Q1 What is your name?
(optional)

Q2 What is your relationship with the student?

I am the Parent.....

I am a Carer

Other

Other, please specify

Q3 Student name
(optional)

Q4 Gender of the student

Female

Male

Other

Prefer not to say.....

Q5 Age of the student

Support

Q6 What autism-related support does the student receive with their current study needs?
(can tick more than one option)

- None.....
- Teaching assistant / Support worker.....
- Changes to teaching materials
- Changes to exams
- Changes to coursework or homework
- Support group
- Tutor outside of school.....
- Other additional support.....

Please specify any additional support received, or specific details (e.g. how exams were changed)

Q7 What further support do you think would help the student?
(optional, can tick more than one option)

- None.....
- Teaching assistant / Support worker.....
- Changes to teaching materials
- Changes to exams
- Changes to coursework or homework
- Support group
- Tutor outside of school.....
- Other

Other, please specify

Q8 What support does the student receive that specifically prepares them for university?
(in less than 100 words)

Q9 What support is currently missing or under-used, which would make a difference to students preparing for university?
(optional, in less than 100 words)

Q10 Does the student have a statement of special educational needs or other official status that entitles them to support currently?

- Yes
- No.....

Q11 At what stages in their education has the student received support for their autism?
(can tick more than one option)

- Early Years
- Primary School.....
- Secondary School.....
- Further Education or Vocational College
- Higher Education
- Never.....

Q12 In your opinion, what support or information would you like a university to offer prior to the start date?
(optional)

- Information about the university and what they are really like
- Information about the application/interview process.....
- Information about the first year of the course and its expectations
- Visiting the university
- Interview with the university
- Speaking to previous students.....
- A tour of the lecture halls and seminar rooms
- A detailed map of the lecture halls and seminar rooms.....
- A tour of accommodation
- Information about clubs and societies
- Meeting the disability support team
- Course reading lists
- Chance to try a "normal day" (or longer) at university with real lectures etc.
- Training on completing all the paperwork
- Training or information on moving city
- Training or information on living as a student
- Other
- Other, please specify

Q13 Do you currently need to advocate for the student at school/college in order for them to receive the support and understanding they need? We'd like to know if the student does this for themselves or needs your help.

- Yes
- No.....

Q14 Have you ever used social stories to help the student with new situations?
(social stories are descriptions of social situations, the problems and the solutions and consequences)

Yes

No.....

Q15 Can you tell us more about how you used social stories, and how effective you found them?
(in less than 100 words)

Preparing for higher education

Q16 Do you feel you know what it will be like for the student when starting at university?

Yes

No

A little

Please explain why you feel this way

Q17 What course does the student want to study?
(optional, if there are several possible ones please enter them all)

Q18 How confident do you feel about their academic ability?

Very confident

Quite confident

Not very confident

Not confident at all

Q19 What do you think the student will find difficult at university?
(in less than 100 words)

Q20 What do you think will be most difficult?
(in less than 30 words)

Q21 Please give an example of a situation that the student may find easy at university
(in less than 100 words)

Q22 Do you think the student will live at home or move away for university?

- Home.....
- Away.....
- Both as likely

Q23 How do you think it would affect the student in terms of their educational opportunities, social skills and employability if they continued to live at their current address whilst studying at university? (optional, in less than 100 words)

Q24 Thinking about this again, how do you think it would affect the student if they moved away in order to study at university? (optional, in less than 100 words)

Q25 How will you help the student with their university application, entrance exams or interviews? (optional, can tick more than one option)

- Not at all
- Proof-reading and checking.....
- Rewriting part of the form.....
- Filling in the form.....
- Getting information about universities
- Accompanying student to interviews and visits
- Speaking to universities on their behalf
- Other
- Other, please specify

Q26 How do you imagine the student would get to university for their first day of lectures?

- I would take them
- A family member would take them
- A support worker would take them.....
- They would travel with friends.....
- They would travel alone with no support
- They would travel alone, but there would be a practice run in advance with support.....
- By other means.....
- Other, please specify

About you and the student

Q27 Did you go to university yourself?

- Yes
- No.....
- Prefer not to say.....

Q28 Has the student got any other condition or disability that affects their ability to study ?
(can tick more than one option)

- No.....
- Dyslexia.....
- Dyspraxia
- Anxiety
- Depression
- ADD or ADHD
- Visual impairment.....
- Hearing impairment.....
- Physical disability
- Other
- Other, please specify

Q29 Can you tell us a bit about the student's current friendships?
This will help us plan the scenarios for the tool by understanding their social situation.
(in less than 100 words)

Q30 Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?
(optional, in less than 200 words)

Consent Form

We will use the understanding and knowledge gained from your information in our research and our findings will be published. We will not be sharing information about you outside the research team. Your responses will be anonymous and it will not be possible to identify you from any published material.

Q31 I consent to the use of my responses by Autism&Uni.

Q32 I am happy to be contacted about taking part in follow-up research, e.g. to talk more about my experiences.....

Q33 I would like to be notified when results from this research become available online.....

If you have indicated that we may contact or notify you, please enter your email address below. We will not use your email address for any other purpose.

Q34 Please enter your email address.

Thank you for taking part in this survey.

If the issues raised in this questionnaire caused you concern and you would like to find out more, please read these articles on the UK National Autistic Society website:

Starting University
<http://tinyurl.com/autismuni>

University: Choosing and Applying
<http://tinyurl.com/autismuni2>

Please send the completed form back to:

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