



## Preparing for Higher Education

### 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 an autistic student can contribute to our understanding of the challenges of entering and succeeding in higher education. We would like to learn about your current situation, your ambitions to enter higher education and the support you are receiving.

#### **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](http://www.autism-uni.org)  
Email: [autism-uni@leedsmet.ac.uk](mailto:autism-uni@leedsmet.ac.uk)  
Sponsor: Leeds Beckett University  
Lead researcher: Dr Marc Fabri

## Personal Details

Q1 What is your name? (optional)

Q2 What is your gender?

Female .....

Male .....

Other .....

Prefer not to say .....

Q3 How old are you?

Please note that if you are under the age of 16 we cannot use your responses.

Q4 Please enter your parent or carer's contact details.

As you are under 18, if you don't answer this question we cannot use your responses.

Name

Email address

Q5 How was your autistic spectrum condition diagnosed (or identified if no official diagnosis)?

Psychiatrist .....

Psychologist .....

Neurologist .....

GP .....

Educational staff .....

Family .....

Self-diagnosis .....

# Questionnaire

## Applying to university

Q6 Why do you want to go to university?  
(can tick more than one option)

- I love studying .....
- I need a degree to do the job I want .....
- I am interested in research .....
- I think I will earn more money .....
- I want to learn more about my subject.....
- Other people say I should go .....
- My family expect me to go .....
- My teachers expect me to go.....
- My friends are going .....
- Other .....
- Other, please specify

Q7 Have you applied to university yet?

- Yes .....
- No.....

Q8 How easy did you find the process of applying?

- Very easy .....
- Easy .....
- Manageable .....
- Difficult.....
- Very difficult.....

Q9 What was good about applying? (can tick more than one option)

- The form was quick to fill in.....
- I knew what to say .....
- I had enough support to help me .....
- All the questions were clear .....
- I liked being able to tell universities about myself.....
- I knew what would happen next.....
- Other .....
- Other, please specify

Q10 What was bad about applying? (can tick more than one option)

- The deadline was difficult to meet.....
- I kept putting it off.....
- I worried about writing the wrong thing.....
- I found telling them why I wanted to do the course difficult.....
- I found the choice of subject or university difficult.....
- I did not understand all the questions.....
- Other.....
- Other, please specify

Q11 What course do you want to study? We don't need to know the exact title. If you're not sure about the specific course, please tell us which subjects you're thinking about studying.

Q12 Did you find it easy/are you finding it easy to decide on a course?

- Yes.....
- No.....

Q13 What or who influences your subject choice?  
(can tick more than one option)

- Family.....
- Partner.....
- Teachers.....
- Friends.....
- Previous grades in subject.....
- People already at university.....
- Careers adviser.....
- TV.....
- Movies.....
- Internet.....
- Celebrities.....
- Books.....
- Hobbies.....
- Other.....
- Other, please specify

# Support

Q14 What support do you currently receive related to your autism?  
(can tick more than one option)

- None.....
- Teaching assistant .....
- Mentor .....
- Changes to exams .....
- Changes to homework .....
- Support group .....
- Tutor outside of school.....
- Other .....
- Other, please specify

Q15 What further support do you think would help you?  
(can tick more than one option)

- None.....
- Teaching assistant .....
- Mentor .....
- Changes to exams .....
- Changes to homework .....
- Support group .....
- Tutor outside of school.....
- Other .....
- Other, please specify

Q16 When you've attended meetings about the support you receive, who usually accompanies you?

- I usually go alone .....
- Parent(s) .....
- Other relative(s) .....
- I have not attended any meetings.....
- Other .....
- Other, please specify

Q17 Have you ever used social stories to help you with new situations?  
(social stories are descriptions of social situations, the problems and the solutions and consequences)

- Yes .....
- No.....

Q18 Can you tell us more about how you used social stories, and how effective you found them?  
(optional, in less than 100 words)

Q19 What other tools have you used to help you at school or college?

- None.....
- Social skills practice.....
- Role playing .....
- Visual timetables.....
- Quiet rooms.....
- Sensory play .....
- TEACCH .....
- ABA .....
- Mind-mapping .....
- iPads/tablets.....
- Alternative forms of communication.....
- Other .....
- Other, please specify

Q20 Can you tell us more about how you used these tools?  
(optional, in less than 100 words)

Q21 What do you like about school/college?  
(can tick more than one option)

- I like the teachers .....
- I get good marks .....
- I have good friends .....
- People help me with my work .....
- The classrooms are nice .....
- I like most of my lessons .....
- I get to do things I enjoy .....
- People are nice to me .....
- Other .....
- Other, please specify

Q22 What don't you like about school/college?  
(can tick more than one option)

- I don't like the teachers .....
- I am not happy with my marks .....
- I don't have many friends .....
- I don't get the help I need .....
- The classrooms are horrible .....
- There is too much going on .....
- Too many things are different .....
- I have to study things I don't like .....
- I have to do things I don't enjoy .....
- I get bullied .....
- Other .....
- Other, please specify

Q23 What support or information would you like before attending university?  
(can tick more than one option)

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



# About you

Q24 When you want to find out about something, where do you usually get information from? We are asking you so we can make sure autistic students find out about the tools we create. (can tick more than one option)

- Lecturers .....
- Family.....
- Friends .....
- Support workers.....
- Groups or Clubs.....
- Internet search engines (like Google or Bing) .....
- Wikipedia.....
- Social media.....
- Other websites .....
- Emails .....
- Apps on my phone/tablet .....
- Newspapers & magazines .....
- TV.....
- Radio.....
- Films/movies .....
- Games.....
- Other .....
- Other, please specify

Q25 Have you got your own computer or laptop?

- Yes .....
- No.....

Q26 Have you got a mobile phone that has apps and lets you access the internet (a smartphone)?

- Yes .....
- No.....

Q27 Do you have a website that you really like to use because it is well-designed?

Please give us the name and if you remember it the address of the website. Describe what you like about it (optional, in less than 50 words) - this question is so that our website and the tool we create work well for you.

Q28 Is there anything else you'd like to tell us regarding how you feel about starting university?  
(optional, up to 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.

Q29 I consent to the use of my responses by Autism&Uni. ....

Q30 I am happy to be contacted about taking part in follow-up research, e.g. to talk more about my experiences.....

Q31 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.

Q32 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>

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Please send the completed form back to:

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