



Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Mentors 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 teacher or mentor of young students 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 students' current situation, their ambitions to enter higher education and the current support they 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

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 institution's name?

Q3 Your role or job title

Your students

Q4 What is the percentage of students at your institution with officially diagnosed conditions?
(if you do not know the percentage, please leave the box empty)

Autism spectrum disorder, including
Asperger Syndrome (%)

Dyslexia (%)

Dyspraxia (%)

Any other specific learning difficulty
(SpLD) (%)

Overall percentage of students with a
declared disability (%)

Q5 Do any of the students on the autism spectrum have other conditions that affect 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

Q6 What percentage of students on the autism spectrum you work with have a statement of special
educational needs or other official status that entitles them to support currently? (in %)

Q7 What do you think your students on the autism spectrum will find difficult when they enter higher
education?
(in less than 100 words)

Q8 What do you think will be most difficult?
(in less than 30 words)

Q9 Please give an example of a situation that the student may find easy at university
(in less than 100 words)

Q10 Do you think the students you support will stay living with their parents or move away?

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

Q11 How do you think it would affect the students 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)

Q12 Thinking about this again, how do you think it would affect the students if they moved away in order to study at university? (optional, in less than 100 words)

Q13 How many friends do your students on the autism spectrum have, on average?

Q14 When students attend meetings about their autism-related support, who usually comes with them?

- They usually come alone
- Mentor / Support worker
- Teacher / Teaching Assistant
- Parent.....
- Other relative.....
- Carer
- Other
- Other, please specify

Q15 How confident do you feel about the academic ability of students on the autism spectrum, that you work with?

- Very confident
- Quite confident.....
- Not very confident
- Not confident at all
- There is too wide a range to say.....

The support your school offers

Q16 What resources, advice and training do students on the autism spectrum receive that specifically prepares them for university?
(in less than 100 words)

Q17 What autism-related support do students receive with their study needs?
(can tick more than one option)

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

Other, please specify

Q18 What support is currently missing or under-used, which would make a difference to students on the autism spectrum preparing for university?
(optional, in less than 100 words)

Q19 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.....

Q20 Can you tell us more about how you used social stories, and how effective you found them?
(in less than 100 words)

Q21 What other tools have you used to help students at school or college?

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

Q22 Do you currently need to advocate for the students?
(we'd like to know if the student does this for themselves or needs your help)

- Yes
- No.....
- Someone else does that
- If someone else, please specify who

You and other staff like you

Q23 What are the main difficulties for you in working with students on the autism spectrum?
(in less than 100 words)

Q24 Do any of your staff consider themselves "specialists" in autism support?

Yes

No.....

If you are not sure, please describe the areas of specialism

Q25 Have any of your staff had recent autism-specific training?

Yes

No.....

Q26 Would you like your staff to have autism-specific training?

Yes

No.....

Q27 What autism-specific topics would you/your staff prioritise for training?
(optional, in less than 100 words)

Q28 Do you liaise with external autism organisations?

Yes

No.....

Please provide their names

Q29 How do you keep up to date with information about autism?
(can tick more than one option)

- Conferences.....
- Training
- Membership of an autism-related organisation
- Mailing lists.....
- Newsletters
- Social media.....
- Academic journals.....
- Departmental policy updates
- Other
- Other, please specify

Q30 Do you have an inclusion policy or guidelines to avoid social exclusion and bullying of students on the autism spectrum?

- Yes
- No.....

Finally

Q31 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.

Q32

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

Q33

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

Q34

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.

Q35 Please enter your email address.

Thank you for taking part in this survey

Please send the completed form back to:

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