



Higher Education Institutions and Disability Advisors working in HE

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 of working with 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 the students you support and the type of support you offer.

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 don't 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 Do you screen for conditions that may affect their learning and social integration when they first
start studying with you?

Yes

No.....

Q7 Which conditions do you screen for?
(can tick more than one option)

Autism Spectrum Disorder, including Asperger Syndrome

Dyslexia.....

Dyspraxia

Other

Other, please specify

Q8 What methods do you use to screen for these conditions?
(optional, in less than 100 words)

Q9 When students attend meetings about their autism-related support, who usually comes with them?

They usually come alone

Mentor / Support worker

Lecturer

Parent

Other relative

Carer

Other

Other, please specify

Q10 What can you tell us about the academic abilities of your students on the autism spectrum?
(in less than 100 words)

The support your institution offers

Q11 What support do you offer if it is suggested that a student may need to be diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Condition?
(can tick more than one option)

- Financial (subsidised cost)
- Information (leaflets/websites)
- Information (face to face)
- Referral to external agency
- Referral to GP
- None of these
- Other
- Other, please specify

Q12 What support do you offer if it is suggested that a student may need to be diagnosed with Dyslexia?
(can tick more than one option)

- Financial (subsidised cost)
- Information (leaflets/websites)
- Information (face to face)
- Referral to external agency
- Referral to GP
- None of these
- Other
- Other, please specify

Q13 How do you support students on the autism spectrum during the following periods:
(in less than 100 words per answer)

Before they arrive at university

During their first few weeks at university

During the rest of their studies

Q14 Of all the support you provide to students on the autism spectrum, which element works best for these students?
(in less than 50 words)

Q15 What initiatives and training are in place to raise awareness of autism in fellow students and in staff?
(in less than 100 words)

Q16 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
- Support group
- Tutor outside of university
- Other
- Other, please specify

Q17 When do students find out about alternative arrangements for their academic work?
(can tick more than one option)

- Before they start the course.....
- In the first few weeks of the course
- Before the first course deadline
- At exam time
- When they specifically ask for adjustments to be made.....
- Not applicable
- Other
- Other, please specify

Q18 What support are you able to offer to students without an official autism diagnosis or disability-specific funding (e.g. Disabled Students Allowance)?
(in less than 100 words)

You and other staff like you

Q19 What are the main difficulties for you in working with students on the autism spectrum?
(in less than 100 words)

Q20 Do any of your staff consider themselves "specialists" in autism support?

Yes

No.....

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

Q21 Does this include academic staff?

Yes

No.....

Q22 Have any of your staff had recent autism-specific training?

Yes

No.....

Q23 Would you like your staff to have autism-specific training?

Yes

No.....

Q24 What autism-specific topics would you/your staff prioritise for training?
(optional, in less than 100 words)

Q25 Do you liaise with external autism organisations?

Yes

No.....

Please specify which organisations

Q26 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

Q27 Do you have an inclusion policy or guidelines to avoid social exclusion and bullying of students on the autism spectrum?

- Yes
- No.....

Finally

Q28 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.

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

Please send the completed form back to:

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