



## Tell us your Story

### 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. To learn more about the current situation, we collect stories from people on the autism spectrum who have had some experience of higher education, or the process of applying to a higher education institution.

#### **How can I participate?**

We will ask you to recall experiences related to applying to university, or your time at university. We call this a 'story'.

#### **Do I have to take part?**

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

#### **What we will do with your information**

The stories we collect will help us determine how students on the autism spectrum can best be informed and supported when they embark on higher education study. We may also use some story elements in the resources we develop. We will take great care not to reveal your identity and in order to do that, we may change and anonymise some of the descriptions you give us before including them in our resources.

In some cases, we may wish to use a story as a complete case study on our website or in project publications. If this applies to your story, we will do this only with your explicit consent and you will be given the option to make changes and have your name acknowledged with your story.

#### **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 Metropolitan University

Lead researcher: Dr Marc Fabri

# About you

Please enter your personal details. We will not publish these without your permission.

Q1 What is your name?

Q2 What is your gender?

Female .....

Male .....

Other .....

Prefer not to say.....

Q3 Which city do you live in?

Q4 What is your country of residence?

United Kingdom.....

Finland .....

The Netherlands .....

Poland .....

Spain .....

Other, please specify below.....

Q5 Please enter your email address

Q6 Please enter your postal address (optional)

Q7 How was your autistic spectrum disorder diagnosed (or identified if no official diagnosis)?

Psychiatrist.....

Psychologist.....

Neurologist.....

GP .....

Educational staff.....

Family.....

Self-diagnosis.....

# About your Story

Q8 What type of story are you telling us?

A success story where the main aim was achieved .....

A problem story where the main aim was not achieved .....

It has elements of both problems and success .....

Q9 **When does your story begin?**

Think back to the beginning of your story and write down the month and the year.

Q10 **When does it end?**

When did your story end? If it has not yet ended, e.g. you are still at university, then leave this box empty.

Q11 How old were you at the beginning of your story?

Q12 The context

**In your story you are the protagonist. Thinking back to the beginning of the story, what was your situation back then and what did you aim to achieve? (up to 200 words)**

Q13 Your challenges  
**What were the challenges you were facing?**  
(up to 100 words)

Q14 Your feelings  
**How did you feel at the time, when faced with these challenges?**  
(up to 100 words)

Q15 Support  
**Who helped you when you faced these challenges, and what did they do?**  
(up to 100 words)

Q16 The conclusion  
**What was the final outcome, how does your story finish?**  
**(up to 100 words)**

Q17 **What about now?**  
How do you feel about these experiences now? What other support would have been helpful? What would you do differently now?  
**(up to 200 words)**

Q18 Further support  
**Do the issues you described above still affect you? Please let us know what would help you now.**  
**(optional, up to 200 words)**

# Consent Form

In order for us to use and learn from your experiences, we require your consent. Please consider the following statements and confirm to what extent we can use your story:

Q19 I consent for my story to be used anonymously for the purpose of developing resources that can help students on the autism spectrum enter and succeed in Higher Education. ....

Q20 I consent for my story to be used by Autism&Uni on the project website or in publications in order to help and inspire other students.....

Q21 I would like to review my story prior to publication with the option to make changes or withdraw my consent.....

Q22 I would like my name to appear with the published version of my story.....

Q23 I would like my city/country to appear with the published version of my story. ....

Thank you for taking part in this survey

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Please send the completed form back to:

Marc Fabri  
Leeds Metropolitan University  
Headingley Campus, Caedmon 102  
Leeds LS6 3QS  
United Kingdom