

**BOOST2018 enrolment sheet**

You are being invited to enroll in the research study BOOST2018 conducted by a team of the University of Essex. The purpose of this study is to better understand the choices made by university students (in terms of their attendance and hours of study, for example), the issues they may face in their daily life, their aspirations, expectations, attitudes, and their outcomes (in terms of final degree grades and employment, for example).

*Why was I selected and what does enrolment mean?*

All first-year undergraduates from the University of Essex from the Colchester campus are invited to participate in this study. By enrolling in the study, you agree for the research team to contact you by email and text messages to invite you to take part in the surveys and to provide you with other relevant information.

*What does participation in the study mean?*

As we would like to get a full picture of your life at university, and your expectations, attitudes and aspirations will change over time, you will be invited to participate in several surveys during your 3 years at University. Some surveys will take place at the EssexLab (on campus), and others will be online. There will be between 1 and 4 surveys per academic year. Online surveys will typically take 30 minutes or less while surveys in the EssexLab will last about one hour. You will be asked questions about your daily life, study, social activities, and thoughts about the future.

*What happens if you do not want to participate in the study?*

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You do not have to provide information if you do not wish to do so and you are free to withdraw from the study at any time (without having to give a reason) by using the contact email below. You can also choose simply not to answer the surveys, or not to answer any specific questions.

*How will you benefit from the study?*

You may not directly benefit from this research; however, you will receive some useful tips on how to improve your academic outcomes and job search strategies and your participation in the study may help future students by informing researchers and policy-makers about the major obstacles and barriers students face when carrying out their degrees. All data collected are for research purposes only.

*Will I be compensated for my participation in this study?*

You will be rewarded with £5 simply by enrolling today, and you will receive more than £100 by participating in all the surveys. Depending on length, online surveys will be compensated approximately £10 and surveys in the EssexLab approximately £15. You will also receive a £10 bonus for participating in all the surveys.

*Will you link my answers from all the surveys and to other data from the University and the Student Union?*

We will combine your answers to all the surveys. The University of Essex collects data about the students to administer all the aspects of their learning, assessment, pastoral care and access to facilities. We will link your answers to the surveys with the data from the University of Essex. We will also link them with data collected by the Student Union. The links will be made using your student PRID, which can be found on your registration card. By enrolling, you allow the research team to have access to these data.

*How will confidentiality be maintained and your privacy be protected?*

All information collected will be strictly confidential, and all reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that your identity will be concealed and that you are protected from the risk of a breach of confidentiality. All survey team members are required to abide by rules of conduct for data protection that are reviewed yearly; they have experience in handling and analyzing large amount of sensitive data provided by several government departments. Apart for the initial sign-up and handling of compensation, the study team will work with anonymised data, so to minimize the possibility of inadvertent disclosure of your details.

*What are the risks?*

The risks and discomfort of participating in this study are no greater than those you would feel when filling in a questionnaire. There is an extremely small risk of inadvertent disclosure, which is minimal given the range of precautions taken by the survey team (see confidentiality above).

*Who do you contact if you have questions about this study?*

If you have any questions pertaining to your participation, please contact us at [boost2018@essex.ac.uk](mailto:boost2018@essex.ac.uk).

To register, please provide the information below.

PRID:

First Name:

Last Name:

Tick preferred email address to be contacted for future surveys

Essex Email address: ☐

Alternative email address: ☐

Mobile phone:

I confirm that I am a first-year student at the University of Essex in the Colchester campus and that I have had a chance to ask any questions. I agree to enroll in BOOST2018 and I confirm the receipt of £5 cash.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Researcher

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date