

B.O.O.S.T 2018

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

Thank you for signing up to BOOST2018. You are now part of a pioneering new research project, which will survey students over the next three years, sharing tips and ideas for making the most of opportunities at Essex.

The study is the first of its kind in the world and will provide fascinating insights on how new students adapt to their work and life at university.

This information for participants answers some frequently asked questions about the study.

What is B.O.O.S.T 2018?

It is a study undertaken by researchers at the University of Essex to better understand students' life at university students, the issues they may face in their daily life, their aspirations, expectations, attitudes, and their outcomes.

You will be rewarded with over £100 in total by completing between 1 and 3 surveys each year of your degree. You will also:

- ⇒ Get tips to make the most of your time at Essex
- ⇒ Contribute to Essex's reputation as a centre of research excellence
- ⇒ Help future generations of students succeed at university

Who can participate?

All first-year undergraduates starting courses at the Colchester campus of the University of Essex in October 2015 are invited to participate in this study.

Foundation students, second and third-year students, post-graduate students, and those who have arrived at Essex as part of an exchange or Erasmus programme from another university are not eligible.

Where is the money coming from and how will this benefit society?

BOOST2018 is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and organized by a team of academics at the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER), a department of the university.

This is the first-ever longitudinal study of an intake of Freshers at a British university, or on such a scale. The insights will be useful to universities across the world, as well as policy makers and leading thinkers planning the best way to support students through their time in higher education

How do I pick up my £5 as a thank you for signing-up?

Once you have registered online, you can get your £5 at our stand **on the next working day**, or via your mailbox if the stand is not running anymore.

Bring your Essex student card with you to the B.O.O.S.T 2018 stand on Square 3. This will run 11:30-4:30 every weekday (*except Thursdays, which is market day*) for the first two weeks of October.

You must wait for the next working day or we will have no record of you having signed up.

How do my friends sign up?

In person:

- They can fill the enrolment sheet on the stand or download it from www.essex.ac.uk/see/boost2018, and bring it already filled to save time!
- You will receive your £5 thank-you in cash immediately on the stand.

Online.

- Just go to www.essex.ac.uk/see/boost2018 and follow the link to the sign-up page.

Do I have to answer the surveys if I sign up?

No, by signing up, you just give consent for the research team to get in touch with you and let you know when the surveys are. But you are completely free to answer the surveys you want.

Can I get a copy of the consent form?

Yes, you can pick one up from the stand, or you can download one from the BOOST2018 website. www.essex.ac.uk/see/boost2018

How will confidentiality be maintained and my privacy protected?

All information collected will be strictly confidential. Apart for the initial sign-up and handling of compensation, the study team will work with anonymised data.

How will I know about the surveys?

We will send you an email and a text message on your mobile phone to let you know when the surveys will take place. Some surveys will be done online and others will be done at the EssexLab.

We will also provide information on the study website and on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/boost2018>

When will the surveys take place?

There will be between 1 and 3 surveys per year. You will receive a reward whenever you complete a survey.

The more surveys you complete, the more we will understand about how your experience changes over time. You will get a £10 bonus for completing all surveys.

Here is the likely timeline (which may vary slightly):

	First year	Second year	Third year
October	Sign-up (£5)		
November	Online survey (30 mins) (£10)	Online survey (30 mins) (£10)	
December			
January	Survey at the EssexLab (1 hour) (£15 on average)	Survey at the EssexLab (1 hour) (£15 on average)	
February			
March	Online survey (30 mins) + separate online survey (2mins) (£12)	Online survey (30 mins) + separate online survey (2mins) (£12)	Online survey (30 mins) (£10)
April			£10 Bonus for participating in everything
May	Nothing here: you'll be busy with exams	Nothing here: you'll be busy with exams	Nothing here: you'll be busy with exams
June			
July	Nothing here: you're on holiday	Nothing here: you're on holiday	If the study is successful, we may try to follow you after you've finished
August			
September			

I'm doing a year abroad, sandwich or four-year course. Can I still take part?

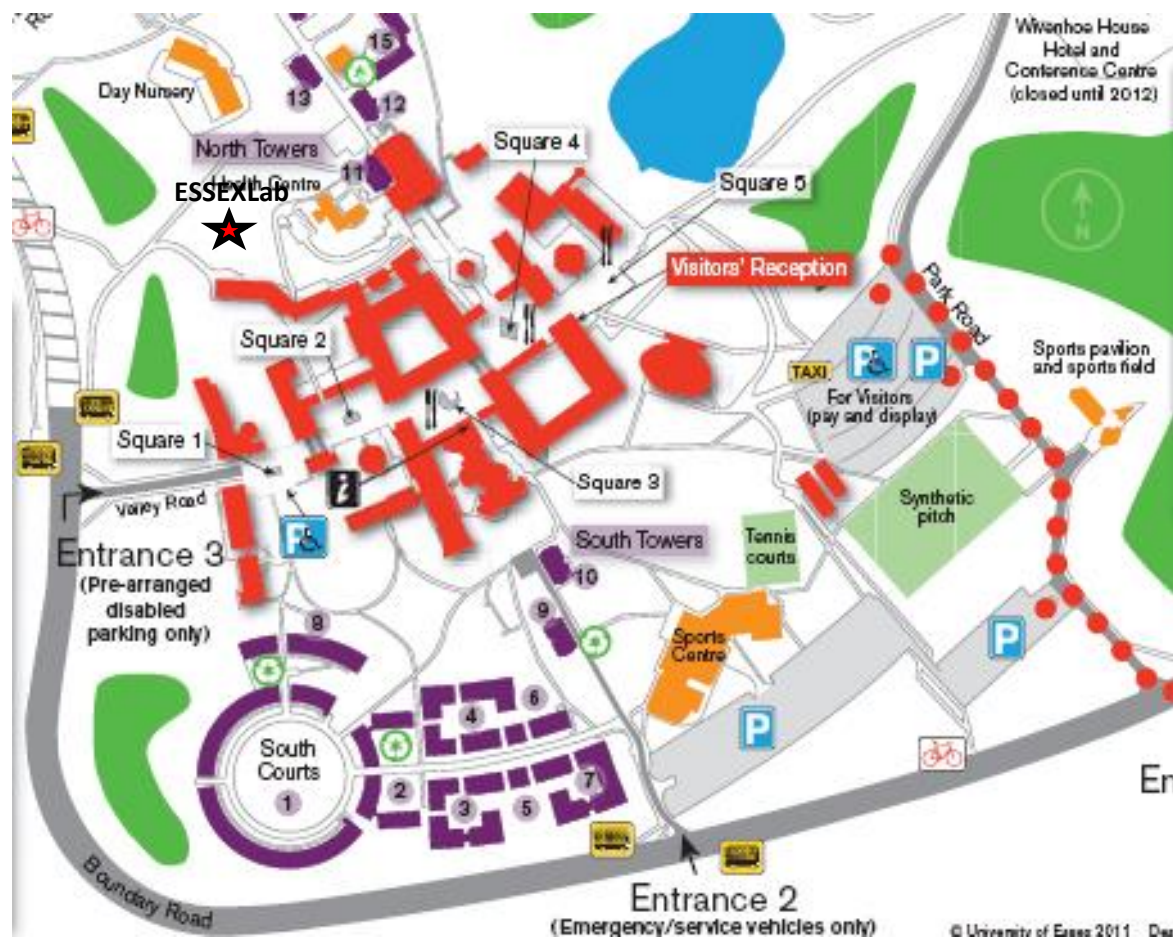
Yes, you can still participate in the online surveys, and if you're present here at Essex, the Lab sessions. Because the survey is funded only for an initial three-year period, we may not be able to survey you in a fourth and final year.

What is the EssexLab and where is it located?

You can find information about the EssexLab at <https://www.essex.ac.uk/essexlab/>

The EssexLab is located on the ground floor of the social science building (UK Data Archive and Institute for Social and Economic Research).

The entrance is across the bridge from square 2, and on the path from the North Towers bus stops to square 2.



[Our interactive online map](#) will help you navigate around campus. If you search for ISER under the 'department, schools and centres' category it will lead you to the building of ESSEXLab.

Who do I 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.