

Worried about employment?

- Would you like to help us research what support people with ASD need to gain employment?
- Would you like your individual employment profile to help target career development activities?

If so, please read the information attached

Dr Beatriz López
Department of Psychology
King Henry Building
King Henry I Street
Portsmouth
PO1 2DY
E-mail: ace@port.ac.uk
Tel: 02392 84 2016



Study Title: ENHANCING EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS FOR STUDENTS WITH
AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS (ASD)

Dear student

I would like to invite you to participate in a research study. This study aims to identify the factors that may influence employment prospects in undergraduate students with ASD. Specifically, the study will explore how the cognitive profile associated with ASD links to factors known to enhance employment success so we can develop employability workshops tailored to students with ASD.

Why have you been contacted?

This letter has been forwarded to you because you have been identified as a student with ASD or as a student in the same course as a student with ASD. The person giving you this letter has not provided me with your name, address or personal details

What would the study entail?

The study consists of an online questionnaire, which takes approximately 30 to 45 minutes. You can complete the questionnaire in different sessions and at your own pace. You will receive a £10 amazon voucher as a thank you for your participation.

Do I have to take part?

No, you do not have to take part. Your participation is entirely voluntary and if you decide not to take part, there will be no negative consequences. Even if you decide to take part, you can withdraw from the study at any point up until you submit a completed survey.

What do I need to do if I want to take part?

If you would like to take part in this study, please email us at ace@port.ac.uk. When we receive your email, we will send you further information about the study and the link to the online survey.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter!
If you have any further questions please contact us at ace@port.ac.uk

Principal Investigator: Beatriz López
Telephone: 023 9284 2016
Email: ace@port.ac.uk

Department of Psychology
King Henry Building
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Portsmouth
PO1 2DY

STUDY TITLE: ENHANCING EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS (ASD)

This study aims to identify the factors that may influence employment prospects in undergraduate students with ASD. Specifically, we will explore how the cognitive profile associated to ASD links to factors known to enhance employment success so we can develop employability workshops tailored to students with ASD. For this purpose we are seeking undergraduate students with ASD. The study consists of an online questionnaire, which takes approximately 30-45 minutes but you can complete the questionnaire in different sessions and at your own pace. You will receive a £10 amazon voucher as a thank you for your participation. For more details please read the information below carefully.

We would like to invite you to take part in our research study. Before you decide we would like you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please contact us (contact details given above) if you would like any more information or you have any questions.

What is the purpose of the study?

Our ultimate aim is to develop employability workshops tailored to students with ASD. To achieve this we aim to explore the employability support needs of undergraduate students with ASD at the University of Portsmouth. In particular, we wish to identify how the cognitive profile associated to ASD (i.e., sensory issues, social and communication ability) link to employability factors known to enhance employment success.

Why have I been invited?

You have been invited to take part because either, you are an undergraduate student with ASD registered at the university or, if you do not have a diagnosis of ASD, because you are in the same course and year that one of the participants with ASD that has taken part on the study.

Do I have to take part?

No, taking part in this research is entirely voluntary. It is up to you to decide if you want to volunteer for the study. We will describe the study in this information sheet. If you agree to take part, we will then ask you to sign the attached consent form.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you decide to take part in this study we will send you a link to an online questionnaire. You will then be asked to register your consent to taking part on the study. A pilot study has shown that the questionnaire takes between 30-45 minutes. You can complete the questionnaire at your own pace and in different sessions if you wish. Your response must be submitted by the 15th of February 2016. Once you complete the questionnaire, you will be given instructions on how to claim your amazon voucher.

Expenses and payments

As a thank you for participating in this study you will receive an amazon voucher worth £10, on completion and submission of the survey questionnaire.

What measurements will be taken?

The study consists of an online questionnaire with two sections, one relating to the cognitive profile associated to ASD (e.g., social and communication ability, sensory issues and flexibility) and another questionnaire about employability factors (e.g., confidence in job search outcomes, self-perceived employability). There are no wrong or right answers to the questions.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

There are no risks identified with participating in this study. Completing the questionnaire takes 30 to 45 minutes. You will be able to complete it entirely at your own pace and on different sessions. If you feel the questionnaire is too long and decide not to complete, you may stop at anytime and we will destroy all data collected until that point.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

The outcomes of this study will benefit adolescents and young adults with ASD. Data collected will directly inform the design of workshops to enhance employment prospects of adolescents and young adults with ASD. No research to date has directly investigated the relationship between cognitive characteristics associated to ASD (e.g. sensory issues, flexibility) and employability factors (e.g., confidence in job outcomes, self-perceived employability) known to have a positive influence on employment prospects. Identifying which aspects of the cognitive profile link to these employability factors will allow us to develop tailored employability workshops for students with ASD.

Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

The raw data, which identifies you by your student number, will be kept securely by the by the Principal Investigator and Alex Tymon in a double-password protected online database. Hardcopies will be kept securely in a locked filing cabinet at the Autism Centre for Employment office. Your student number will be removed once data has been processed and matched.

The data, when made anonymous, may be presented to others at scientific meetings, or published as a project report, academic dissertation or scientific paper or book. It could also be made available to any sponsor of the research. Anonymous data, which does not identify you, may be used in future research studies approved by an Appropriate Research Ethics Committee.

The raw data, which would identify you, will not be passed to anyone outside the study team without your express written permission. The exception to this will be any regulatory authority who may have the legal right to access the data for the purposes of conducting an investigation in exceptional cases.

The raw data will be retained for up to 10 years. When it is no longer required, the data will be disposed of securely (e.g. electronic media and paper records / images) destroyed.

What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?

As a volunteer you can stop completing the questionnaire at any time without giving a reason. If you decide not to complete the questionnaire, we will destroy all data collected until that point. After you have completed the questionnaires, you have up to 7 days to withdraw from the study. If you do so we will delete all data collected from you.

What if there is a problem?

If you have a query, concern or complaint about any aspect of this study, in the first instance you should contact the Principal Investigator (PI) if appropriate. The contact details of the PI are detailed at the front of this page.

If your concern or complaint is not resolved by the PI you should contact the Head of Department:

The Head of Department	Dr Sherria Hoskins
Department / School of Psychology	023 9284 6321
University of Portsmouth	Sherria.Hoskins@port.ac.uk
King Henry Building	
Portsmouth, PO1 2DY	

If the complaint remains unresolved, please contact:

The University Complaints Officer
023 9284 3642 complaintsadvise@port.ac.uk

Who is funding the research?

This research is being funded by the University of Portsmouth. None of the researchers or will receive any financial reward by conducting this study, other than their normal salary / bursary as an employee of the University

Who has reviewed the study?

This study has been scientifically reviewed within the Department of Psychology and then ethically reviewed and been given favourable ethical opinion by the Science Faculty Ethics Committee.

Thank you

Thank you for taking time to read this information sheet and for considering volunteering for this study.

What do I do if I want to take part?

If you do volunteer for this study please email us at: ace@port.ac.uk with the subject: "Enhancing Employment Survey" and we will send you the link to the online survey.

Before you start completing the questionnaire, you will be asked to consent to taking part. Please read carefully the consent form and feel free to ask any questions if you have any doubts.