

Participant Information Sheet

Exploring the Impact of Part-Time Work on Student Success to Inform Guidance and Enhance Support

Ethics application ID: 11113013

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We would like to invite you to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take some time to read the following information carefully, and please retain this copy for your personal records. Please ask if anything requires further clarification.

What is the purpose of the study?

With evidence suggesting that up to two-thirds of students work during their studies, this study aims to develop a current, evidence-based understanding of the impact of part-time work on University of Aberdeen students' academic performance, wellbeing, and overall student experience. The findings will be used to inform development of actionable guidance and support for students and to inform institutional policy on balancing work and study.

Why have I been invited to take part?

We are inviting current University of Aberdeen students on a full undergraduate or taught postgraduate programme, studying at our Aberdeen campus, to take part in a survey asking questions about student working patterns seeking to identify key challenges and opportunities faced by different student groups.

Do I have to take part?

Participation in this research study is completely voluntary. This participant information sheet has been produced to help you decide if you would like to take part in this study. It is up to you (and you alone) to decide whether you wish to take part. If you do decide to participate, you will be free to withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason, and with no detriment to you.

If you also decide you no longer want your contribution to be included in this research and associated publications, please be aware that after completing the survey, you will be able to withdraw your data up to the point when the data is downloaded for analysis. Beyond then, your data will no longer be able to be identified and therefore removal of this data will not be possible.

How do I give my consent to participate in the study?

It is important that you give your informed consent if you decide to take part in this study, and you will have the opportunity to ask any questions in relation to the research before you provide your consent. If you are happy to participate in the study, you will be asked to complete the consent section at the start of the survey before you proceed to the survey questions.

What does taking part involve?

If you decide to participate, you will be asked to answer a range of questions relating to your work and your studies. The survey should take up to 10 minutes to complete. Following your completion of the survey questions, your survey responses will be linked with the following data from your Student Record: Student ID number; username; level of study; year of study; degree programme; date of birth; home/international student status; gender; ethnicity; and grades awarded at the end of Term 2 in academic year 2025-26.

Are there any risks associated with taking part?

In addition to questions about your work and studies, the questionnaire includes optional questions about the background of participants and whether they have a disability. These questions are all optional and participants can leave them blank.

On completion of the survey, participants will be directed to appropriate support services.

Are there any benefits associated with taking part?

Taking part in this study will build our understanding of the experiences of students undertaking work during their studies. The insights gained through your participation will inform the development of actionable guidance for students, the related institutional policy on balancing work and study, and help identify actions to enhance support services.

What will happen to my data?

Survey response data will be matched with data from the Student Records System, using your Student ID number, and downloaded into a spreadsheet by the Student Registry Team. The data in the spreadsheet will be anonymised (Student ID numbers removed) and then shared with members of the project team for the purposes of analysis.

All data generated by the study will be stored in research specific drives on secure servers of the University of Aberdeen and only accessed or transported by encrypted and password-protected devices. It will be retained in accordance with the University of Aberdeen Research Data Management Policy for 5 years after the project end date and thereafter permanently deleted in accordance with University IT data security procedures.

You can also consult the University's Privacy Notice for Research Participants for further information on how we manage your data - <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/privacy/research-participants-938.php>.

Will my participation be confidential?

The data you provide will be analysed and may be used in publications and other scholarly means of disseminating the findings from the research project, but this will be done in such a way that your identity is not disclosed.

How will I find out about the results of the study?

You will be able to view the findings and recommendations from this research on the Careers and Employability Service website (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/careers/about/research-activities/>). The report is expected to be published by September 2026.

Who is funding and/or sponsoring the study?

The University of Aberdeen is sponsoring this study as a project within the Learning and Teaching Enhancement Programme (LTEP).

Who has reviewed the study?

The research has been approved by the Committee for Research Ethics and Governance in Arts, Social Sciences & Business, University of Aberdeen on the 6th April 2026.

Contact Details

If you have any general queries, require further information about the study or would like to withdraw your consent to participate, please contact the principal researcher: **Name:** Tracey Innes | **E-mail:** t.innes@abdn.ac.uk | **Telephone:** 01224 272276

If you have any concerns about the way in which the study has been conducted, you can contact the Chair of the Committee for Research Ethics & Governance in Arts, Social Sciences & Business: **Name:** Dr Alessandra Cecolin | **E-mail:** alessandra.cecolin@abdn.ac.uk

Thank you for considering taking part in this study.