**Student Forum-Thriving through COVID**

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

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## Invitation

You are invited to participate in a research study exploring the factors for thriving in your studies during COVID-19.

## What is the purpose of this study?

This study aims to discover what enabled some students with disability to thrive in their studies during COVID-19 disruptions.

## How is the study being funded?

The study is funded by a grant provided to the ADCET by the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE).

## Why have I been invited to participate?

You have been invited to participate because you are a student with disability, and you were studying at a university or TAFE in Australia during the COVID-19 restrictions in 2020.

Your participation is voluntary, and your choice to take part or not take part will not affect your grades/the services you receive/etc.

**5. What will I be asked to do?**

You will take part in a two-hour on-line forum on Zoom. During this forum you will be allocated to small breakout rooms with three other participants where you will be required to:

* Share one example of when you felt you were thriving (doing really well) in your studies during COVID-19
* Work with the other participants in your breakout room to identify the key factors or themes for successfully thriving in studies during COVID-19
* Discuss yours and other’s ideas for how these key factors might inform information provided to students in the future
* Start to develop a design for one of your ideas
* One member of your small group will be required to briefly present your idea to the whole group

The forum will NOT be recorded.

We expect the forum to take approximately 2 hours in total.

While we encourage participants to have their camera on while in the small breakout rooms, this is optional, so you may choose to participate with your camera turned off.

There will be research assistants present in the small breakout rooms to assist where necessary.

## 6. Are there any possible benefits from participation in this study?

We do not expect direct benefits for participants in this study. However, this study will help us understand what enabled some students with disability to thrive during the disruptions caused by COVID-19 and to inform the development of new resources or approaches to promote more thriving amongst students. We therefore hope that future students will benefit from your participation.

To thank participants and to acknowledge your time in participating in the online forum, you will receive a $100 gift voucher.

## 7. Are there any possible risks from participation in this study?

We don’t expect that there are any risks in you participating in this study. However, if answering any of the questions causes you any discomfort, please be reminded of availability of counselling services at your university or TAFE.

## 8. What if I change my mind during or after the study?

You are free to withdraw without consequence before you attend the forum. However, once you have participated in the forum your data will be included in the analysis and it will not be possible to remove it because it will have been de-identified and we won’t know which information belongs to you.

## 9. What will happen to the data when this study is over?

The information collected as part of this project will be stored on a University of Tasmania server, which is password-protected and only accessible to the research team. The data from the survey might be used by the Chief Investigator (and/or colleagues as permitted by the CI) in future research that has a similar focus.

## 10. How will the results of the study be published?

All data in this study will be anonymous. A report from this study will developed and distributed to participants and ADCET stakeholders. The report will also be available to read and download from the ADCET website [www.adcet.edu.au](http://www.adcet.edu.au).

**11. What if I have questions about this study?**

If you have any queries, concerns or issues with this study, please feel free to contact the Project Officer, Debbie Hindle or members of the research team (all contact details are at the top of page 1). Debbie’s contact info is:

Debbie Hindle [Debbie.hindle@utas.edu.au](mailto:Debbie.hindle@utas.edu.au)

Phone 0457 542 165

This study has been approved by the Tasmanian Social Sciences Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have concerns or complaints about the conduct of this study, you can contact the Executive Officer of the HREC (Tasmania) Network on (03) 6226 2975 (SSHREC) or email ss.ethics@utas.edu.au. The Executive Officer is the person nominated to receive complaints from research participants. You will need to quote H0023828.

**12. How can I agree to be involved?**

To agree to be involved in the online forum, please take the following steps:

* Read this Participant Information Sheet and read the Consent Form
* Indicate your consent by:
  + Complete the Consent Form and email it to Debbie Hindle ([Debbie.Hindle@utas.edu.au](mailto:Debbie.Hindle@utas.edu.au)) OR
  + Alternatively, if you can’t sign the form electronically, you can send Debbie a short email message saying the you consent to being involved and agree with the points in the Consent Form.

**Thank you for your time**