



Participant Information Sheet

You should have been emailed a PDF copy of this information sheet that you can keep and refer to.

Title of Study: The role of intergenerational programmes in the psychological well-being of Internet users in later life

Department: Clinical, Educational and Health Psychology, UCL Division of Psychology and Language Sciences

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Name and Contact Details of the Principal Researcher: Dr Georgina Charlesworth (g.charlesworth@ucl.ac.uk)

This study has been approved by the UCL Research Ethics Committee. Project ID number: 19837/001

1. Introduction

We would like to invite you to take part in a research study. Please take as much time as you need to decide whether or not you wish to take part; it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what participants will be asked to do. Please read the following information carefully, discuss with others if you wish, and ask us if you want more information. Thank you for taking time to read through this document.

2. What is the purpose of the study?

Intergenerational programmes are activities that allow people from different generations to interact with each other; these usually involve older people interacting with younger people ranging from babies to university students. This study aims to explore how participating in intergenerational programmes impact the psychological well-being of older Internet users, and is estimated to end in September 2022.

3. Why have I been invited?

You have been invited to participate in this study as you:

- Are 65 years old and above
- Have experience of participating in an intergenerational programme as an older adult participant (currently and/or in the past), and are able to remember these experiences
- Use the Internet, i.e. can access a device connected to the Internet (e.g. smartphone or computer)
- Can receive/send emails

We estimate that the study will have a total of 15 participants, but this number may increase if we require additional data.

4. Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part in this study. You can also withdraw at any time up until 1st March 2022 without giving a reason, and this will not have any implications for you. If you decide to withdraw, you will be asked what you wish to happen to the data you have provided up to that point.

Besides the criteria mentioned above (in point 3), we also require that participants:

- Are able to understand and use the information provided to decide whether to participate, and to communicate that decision to us
- Are open to being interviewed on Microsoft Teams (an online videoconferencing platform) – we can guide you through the process if you are not familiar

5. What will I have to do if I decide to take part?

Firstly, you will be asked for your consent to participate in the study through an online form; your consent will be indicated through your electronic signature (which you will sign with your mouse, or your finger on a touch screen). After consenting to the study, you will be directed to the second part of the form that asks for some background information, e.g. demographic information including ethnicity and information about your social network and Internet use. The entire online form would take approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete.

Secondly, you will take part in an online individual interview on Microsoft Teams, which will last up to an hour. You will be asked about your experiences of using the Internet and the intergenerational programmes you participate(d) in. If you are interested in helping to review the study results, these would be sent to you at a later stage, and your comments may be used to further refine the study write-up.

6. Will I be recorded and how will the recorded media be used?

The interviews will be audio-recorded using a password-protected audio recorder to allow information to be captured and analysed. The recordings will be destroyed once the interview transcripts have been typed out and checked for accuracy.

7. Will my participation in this project be kept confidential?

All the information that we collect from you will be kept confidential and only be accessible to the research team. However, if there is any indication of harm to yourself or others, we would have to alert the relevant authorities, and will discuss this with you where possible.

All research data will be encrypted, password-protected and stored in UCL's secure servers (UCL N: drive and OneDrive) at the earliest possible opportunity. Your personal identifiers (i.e. name and contact information) will be stored separately from the other data you provide. At the end of this research study, the data will be anonymised (i.e. all personal identifiers will be destroyed) and stored in a UCL secure archive for up to 10 years. The data will not be shared with people outside of the research team, transferred outside of the European Economic Area or used for other projects.

8. What are the possible risks and benefits of taking part?

We do not foresee that you will experience any disadvantages and/or risks from participating in this study. While there are no immediate benefits of taking part, we hope that the study will be enjoyable. We hope that the findings are of use in developing intergenerational programmes in the future. In appreciation of your participation, we will also donate £7.50 to Age UK for the completion of the interview.

9. What if something goes wrong?

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the way in which you were approached or treated in this study, please contact the Principal Researcher Dr Georgina Charlesworth (g.charlesworth@ucl.ac.uk). If you feel that your complaint has not been handled satisfactorily, you can contact the Chair of the UCL Research Ethics Committee (ethics@ucl.ac.uk).

10. What will happen to the results of the research project?

The data you provide will be used for writing up a doctoral thesis, which may be published in a research journal or presented at conferences. We would include verbatim quotations from the interviews, but you will not be identified in any of these publications. If you wish to receive a copy of the final report, you can contact the researcher when the study ends.

11. Who is organising and funding the research?

UCL is sponsoring and funding this study.

12. Contact for further information

For further information about the study, please contact Shi Ting Lau (shi.lau.19@ucl.ac.uk).

13. Data Protection Privacy Notice

The data controller for this project will be University College London (UCL). The UCL Data Protection Officer provides oversight of UCL activities involving the processing of personal data, and can be contacted at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk

This 'local' privacy notice sets out the information that applies to this particular study. Further information on how UCL uses participant information can be found in our 'general' privacy notice, which can be accessed here:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/legal-services/privacy/ucl-general-research-participant-privacy-notice>

The information that is required to be provided to participants under data protection legislation (GDPR and DPA 2018) is provided across both the 'local' and 'general' privacy notices.

The categories of personal data used will be as follows: name, contact details (email address and/or phone number) and ethnicity.

The lawful basis that would be used to process your personal data will be performance of a task in the public interest. The lawful basis used to process special category personal data (i.e. ethnicity) will be for research purposes.

Your personal data will be processed so long as it is required for the research project. If we are able to anonymise or pseudonymise the personal data you provide, we will undertake this and will also endeavour to minimise the processing of personal data wherever possible.

If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, or if you would like to contact us about your rights, please contact UCL in the first instance at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk.

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering to take part in this research study.