

Plain Language Statement

Study Title: “Since you are here, then settle in”: A Study of positive adaptation strategies applied by Chinese Taught Postgraduate Students in University of Glasgow

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You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

Thank you for reading this.

**What is the purpose of the study?**

This study aims at finding out about how some Chinese international students adapted successfully to studying in University of Glasgow. As these students need to leave their home country to a place with no family or friends to support them, live and learn in a different language, culture as well as legal system. In the meantime, post graduate students are at an age of exploring many aspects of life, and differ greatly from undergraduate students who have already been studied extensively by researchers. Therefore, this study studies the positive adaptation strategies which could facilitate policy makers in universities of Scotland in their attempts making higher education more inclusive.

**Why have I been chosen?**

You have been chosen to participate because you are aged over 18 and are a Chinese PGT student currently studying at the University of Glasgow

**Do I have to take part?**

You are free to decide whether you want to take part in this research. It is completely up to you.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

If you choose to take part in this study, we will arrange a time to host an online interview with you. We will need to collect your full name and email address and will send you a link so that you can access the meeting. Please make sure that you use your full name when signing up for the study so that we can ensure that you have access to the online meeting room.

During the interview we will ask you questions about your positive adaptation strategy and experiences, including academic efforts and social support and this will take around 30 minutes to complete. We will audio record the interview so that we can type up your answers later into an anonymous transcript. Only myself and my supervisor will be able to access this audio recording.

You do not need to answer any questions you do not want to. You can stop the interview at any time by letting the interviewer know that you do not want to continue, you do not need to give a reason for this. If you stop the interview, then we will delete the recording immediately. You can also contact us for up to one week after your interview to ask us to remove your data from our analysis, we will then delete your recording and will not transcribe your data. You do not need to give a reason for this. To do this, please email me using the details below. However, after a week we will begin anonymising and transcribing your data so it is not possible to remove it.

One week after the interview I will type up your answers into a transcript and will then analyse your transcript and the transcripts of others to look for common themes and patterns to answer my research question.

**Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

Please note that assurances on confidentiality will be strictly adhered to unless evidence of wrongdoing or potential harm is uncovered. In such cases the University may be obliged to contact relevant statutory bodies/agencies.

**What will happen to the results of the research study?**

Your data will be combined with the anonymous data from all other participants in the research and will be analysed. We may use short, anonymised quotations in our reports.

The results of this study will be written up as part of my MSc dissertation. The results may also be presented at academic conferences or in academic journals. It is also likely that the data will be of interest to other researchers, therefore the anonymised dataset will also be made available to other researchers for example on the Open Science Framework website. We can also make a summary of the results available to participants. Please contact me using the details below if you would like to request this.

Your audio recording will be deleted as soon as we have created the anonymous transcript of our conversation. Your anonymous data will be securely stored on a Onedrive file hosted at the University of Glasgow and will be deleted after 10 years.

**Who has reviewed the study?**

This study has been approved by the College of Social Sciences Ethics Committee.

**Contact for Further Information**

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 We do not expect participating in this research to cause any undue distress, however, if you would like to talk to someone about your feelings, please contact Student Minds and University of Glasgow student counselling service

If you have any concerns regarding the conduct of this research project, you can contact the School of Education Ethics Officer, via email: education-ethics@glasgow.ac.uk

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