

**Participant Information Sheet for QMCI Project (Evaluation Stage)**

‘You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether or not to take part, 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.’

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

This study will examine whether students find it easier and more enjoyable to learn about social science research methods when these methods are embedded in modules and not taught separately.

**Why have I been invited to participate?**

You are either a student enrolled on a module with an embedded methods component or a student taking a standard methods course.

**Do I have to take part?**

It is up to you to decide whether to take part or not. If you do decide to take part, you are free to withdraw at any time, without prejudice. Choosing to take part or not take part will have no impact on your marks or assessment for the module.

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

You will be asked to give your opinions about methods teaching and to answer some questions which test your understanding of certain concepts. We will also ask you to tell us basic things about yourself e.g. whether you are a home student or not, whether you are male or female. We will collect this information during classes using a system called MBClick which can be accessed on a smartphone or laptop. We will provide access to laptops in sessions for those without their own laptop or smartphone. The answers you give will not be passed back to your teachers. They may ask us for a summary of, for example, how many students got a particular question correct if they want to decide whether to cover a topic in more detail. We will provide such a summary for them in a form that does not enable them to identify individuals (e.g. 10% of students got this question correct).

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

You will be part of one of a series of studies being conducted nationally to improve quantitative methods teaching in social science subjects. Your opinions and answers will help us to understand how to modify the curriculum in order to make methods topics clearer and more interesting for students. During the study, you can receive feedback on your answers to conceptual questions from MBClick which may be useful to reflect upon for learning.

**Will what I say/data about me be kept confidential?**

All the information collected from/about you will be kept strictly confidential. When we come to store and analyse the data, we will assign each participant with an ID number to ensure anonymity. We will store the data securely at all times on computers with sophisticated encryption capabilities.

**What should I do if I want to take part?**

To indicate you are happy to take part, select ‘yes’ for the question, ‘Are you happy to participate in the research project?’ using MBClick.

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

The data will be analysed and reported in an end of project report, academic journal articles and conference papers. They will also be used to improve the teaching of methods to social science undergraduates in Manchester.

**Who is organising and funding the research?**

The principal investigator of the study is Dr Mark Brown and it is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) under its curriculum innovation initiative.

**Who has reviewed the study?**

This research has been approved by the University of Manchester Research Ethics Committee.

**Contact for further information**

Dr Mark Brown – mark.brown@manchester.ac.uk (Principal Investigator)

Dr Stephanie Thomson – stephanie.thomson@manchester.ac.uk (Research Associate)

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet. Please feel free to ask any questions by contacting those named above.