 

**Participant Information Sheet**

**Title of Project:** Pedagogies for Critical Thinking: Innovation and Outcomes in African Higher Education

Thank you for your interest in this research study! We hope that this information sheet will give you all the information that you need about the project. If you find you have further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact any members of the research team.

**Why is this research being conducted?**

The goal of this research project is to better understand how university teaching can support student learning. We are interested in learning about the kinds of teaching practices that you experience at your university and in finding out how teaching can support the development of critical thinking skills.

**Who will be taking part?**

First-year students from universities in Kenya, Ghana and Botswana will be participating in the project. All participants will be selected randomly from university enrollment lists.

**What will happen during the research?**

Participants in the study will participate in two assessment activities: one at the beginning of their first year at university, and one at the end of the second year. During both phases, the research team will hold a number of data collection sessions on your university campus, and we will ask that you attend one. During both sessions, you will be asked to complete a 90-minute assessment, as well as two short questionnaires. Your assessment will be scored by a team of researchers and analysed based on some of your responses to the questionnaires.

Because we need to get in touch with you to organise the second session next year, we ask that you please note your name and contact information on your consent form, so that we can follow up with you.

**What questions will be asked?**

The assessment takes the form of a “performance task.” This means that you will be presented with a real-life situation, a role to assume, and a number of related documents. You will be asked to read the documents and respond to a number of questions, imagining what you would do if you were presented with the situation in real life.

One of the questionnaires will ask you some basic information about your family background, your academic background, and your secondary school. The other questionnaire will ask you about your attitudes towards learning at university.

**What will happen to the research findings?**

The findings will be written up as a report to the university administration and representatives from the Ministry of Education. We will also share the findings publicly through dissemination events in February 2018, academic journal articles and at academic conferences. Your participation will remain entirely confidential.

**What is the benefit of participation?**

We are unable to provide any financial incentives for participation in this study. However, it is our hope that the results of this work will be very useful both for university administrators and for the Ministry of Education as they work together to improve higher education in this country.

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All aspects of this project have been reviewed by the Research Ethics Committee at University College London and Strathmore University, as well as by the Ministry of Education.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, Mercy Atieno, or Mary Omingo, our Kenya team lead, with any questions or concerns. You may also contact the Strathmore University IRB contact if you have any questions. Our contact information is below:

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**Thank you very much in advance for your help!**