**Participant Information Sheet**

**Study Title**: “Green norms across borders”: how does student migration affect pro-environmental behaviour?

**Researcher**: Dr Roger Tyers **ERGO number:** 48221

You are being invited to take part in the above research study. To help you decide whether you would like to take part or not, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the information below carefully and ask questions if anything is not clear or you would like more information before you decide to take part in this research. You may like to discuss it with others but it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.

**What is the research about?**

My name is Dr Roger Tyers, and I am a research fellow in Sociology at the University of Southampton. This research is part of my research fellowship project, and is funded by the UK’s Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

My research is about how pro-environmental (or ‘green’) attitudes change when people migrate, with a particular focus on Chinese students who move to the UK to study for at least one year. My previous research suggests that these students often change their environmental attitudes when they live in the UK, and that they may also change their behaviour (for example, recycling more or saving energy at home more than before their study).

This project looks at what happens next – do Chinese students who have studied in the UK for an extended period really change their ‘green’ attitudes and change their behaviour after they come back to China? Or is the change only temporary? Has the experience of living in the UK affected their opinions on ‘green’ issues?

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

You have been chosen for this research because you have studied in the UK for at least a year at some point in the past, and have since returned to China.

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

If you choose to take part in my research, you will be part of a focus group (which is basically a group interview) with around 6-8 other Chinese people who have also studied in the UK for at least one year and have since returned to China. This focus group will last a maximum of one hour, and will involve me asking questions to the group about your time in the UK and your return to China, with a focus on environmental behaviours such as saving energy, food choices, transport, and recycling. The aim is to have an informal discussion between the group.

This discussion will be recorded. After the focus group, this recording will be transcribed, all names will be changed to ensure anonymity and confidentiality, and I will use the transcript to analyse what was said in this focus group (and other focus groups with different groups of people).

**Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

There is a small ‘thank you’ payment of 100RMB for taking part. You may benefit from thinking about your environmental behaviours which could potentially help you, and the environment, in the future. You might also find it enjoyable to discuss these issues with the other members of your group. There may be benefits to wider society by contributing to scientific knowledge about how migration affects behaviour, and how UK universities can better support Chinese students.

**Are there any risks involved?**

It is unlikely that there are any risks involved in this research, although please ensure you are comfortable and if you hear a fire alarm, please evacuate the building.

The topic of discussion is not one which is likely to cause upset, but it is possible. Please be sensitive to the other members of your group. If you become distressed by the conversation during the focus group, you can tell me, or if you prefer you can leave at any time.

**What data will be collected?**

The data collected will be the discussion which will be recorded. You are encouraged to avoid giving specific personal details in this discussion, but should you accidentally say something which might identify you (such as your address), these details will not feature in any outputs from the research. In any case your name will be removed from the transcripts of the discussion.

**Will my participation be confidential?**

Your participation and the information I collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. I will record the focus group discussions, recordings will be transcribed and the recordings will be destroyed after use. Your name will be changed on the transcript immediately so that everything you say is anonymous.

Only I will have access to the data. It is possible that responsible members of the University of Southampton may be given access to data about you for monitoring purposes and/or to carry out an audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations. Individuals from regulatory authorities (people who check that we are carrying out the study correctly) may require access to your data. All of these people have a duty to keep your information, as a research participant, strictly confidential.

What you say will be shared with other members of the focus group, so I ask that you each respect each others’ confidentiality and do not repeat anything you hear in the discussion that could identify anyone in it.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide you want to take part, you will need to sign a consent form to show you have agreed to take part.

**What happens if I change my mind?**

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected. If you wish to leave the focus group, you can do so at any time. However, be aware that it may not be possible to destroy anything you have said up to your departure as the recording will pick up every member’s voice.

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

Your personal details will remain strictly confidential. Research findings made available in any reports or publications will not include information that can directly identify you without your specific consent.

The project will be written up and I hope to publish at least one journal article from it. If you are interested in seeing my outputs, I am happy to give you a web link to my blog site where you can see updates on this research, or you can email me at any time.

**Where can I get more information?**

You can email me using [R.Tyers@soton.ac.uk](mailto:R.Tyers@soton.ac.uk)

**What happens if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to me, and I will do my best to answer your questions.

If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, [rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk)).

**Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of research integrity. As a publicly-funded organisation, the University has to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information about people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use information about you in the ways needed, and for the purposes specified, to conduct and complete the research project. Under data protection law, ‘Personal data’ means any information that relates to and is capable of identifying a living individual. The University’s data protection policy governing the use of personal data by the University can be found on its website (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>).

This Participant Information Sheet tells you what data will be collected for this project and whether this includes any personal data. Please ask the research team if you have any questions or are unclear what data is being collected about you.

Our privacy notice for research participants provides more information on how the University of Southampton collects and uses your personal data when you take part in one of our research projects and can be found at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/sharepoint/intranet/ls/Public/Research%20and%20Integrity%20Privacy%20Notice/Privacy%20Notice%20for%20Research%20Participants.pdf>

Any personal data we collect in this study will be used only for the purposes of carrying out our research and will be handled according to the University’s policies in line with data protection law. If any personal data is used from which you can be identified directly, it will not be disclosed to anyone else without your consent unless the University of Southampton is required by law to disclose it.

Data protection law requires us to have a valid legal reason (‘lawful basis’) to process and use your Personal data. The lawful basis for processing personal information in this research study is for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. Personal data collected for research will not be used for any other purpose.

For the purposes of data protection law, the University of Southampton is the ‘Data Controller’ for this study, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Southampton will keep identifiable information about you for a maximum of one month after the study has finished (or when transcription has been completed, whichever is sooner) after which time any link between you and your information will be removed.

To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personal data necessary to achieve our research study objectives. Your data protection rights – such as to access, change, or transfer such information - may be limited, however, in order for the research output to be reliable and accurate. The University will not do anything with your personal data that you would not reasonably expect.

If you have any questions about how your personal data is used, or wish to exercise any of your rights, please consult the University’s data protection webpage (https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page) where you can make a request using our online form. If you need further assistance, please contact the University’s Data Protection Officer ([data.protection@soton.ac.uk](mailto:data.protection@soton.ac.uk)).

**Thank you.**

Thanks for taking the time to read this information sheet and considering taking part in the research. If you still want to take part, please sign the consent form, and I hope you enjoy the focus group.