Transforming Universities for a Changing Climate

Information Sheet (Qualitative Research)

The sheet is intended to provide background information on the project and your participation in the research. If you would like any further information, contact details are provided at the end.

**Background to the Project**

[*Transforming Universities for a Changing Climate*](http://www.climate-uni.com/) is a research project investigating the role that higher education can play in addressing the challenges of climate change. The project is a partnership between researchers in five countries – Brazil, Fiji, Kenya, Mozambique and the United Kingdom (UK) – and is funded by the UK’s Economic and Social Research Council (a public body committed to improving quality of life through social science research and innovation), as part of the Global Challenges Research Fund. It is led by University College London in the UK.

**Aims and purpose of the qualitative case studies**

The aim of the UCL research is to explore with academics and university sustainability staff their understandings of how their work responds to the climate crisis, whether they see themselves as activists, and how this might vary by discipline and role within the university. You have been chosen because your work features prominently on the UCL website as a climate expert. We aim to speak to 15-20 members of staff through individual interviews, and then to conduct a validation workshop to share the initial findings.

**Your participation**

Your participation in this research is entirely voluntary. We would like to invite you to participate in an interview of approximately 45 minutes. If you do decide to take part, we’re very grateful for your time, it will be a huge help to our research. The *Transforming Universities for a Changing Climate* project has passed through ethical approval at University College London.

Any data generated through the research process is completely confidential, and will not be attributed to you personally. None of the names of the participants will appear when we report on the research. We will retain your contact details during the course of the research – so we can contact you again if any part of the data collected needs clarifying – but will destroy these on completion of the project. All of the data will be kept secure on password protected computers throughout the course of the project, and only shared with other researchers on the project.

It is completely your decision whether or not you take part in the research. We hope it will be interesting to you, but if you decide not to, that’s fine, just let the researchers know. Also, you can change your mind and decide not to take part in the research at any point up until the end of this study on 31st August 2022, and your information will be deleted.

**What will happen to the research**

The results of this research will be used in different ways. We will be producing reports for the universities who have participated in the research, and will work with them to develop their current provision. We will also disseminate the results through conferences and seminars with other universities in the country who haven’t participated in the research. We will also publish the findings in reports, academic journals and blogs to reach people in other countries who are researching similar topics, or who are engaged in action around climate change or improving university systems around the world.

Any interview, focus group or other qualitative research data will only be used for research purposes.  It will not be used in a manner which would allow identification of your individual responses.  At the end of the project, anonymised research data will be archived at the UK Data Archive in order to make them available to other researchers in line with current data sharing practices.

**Contact details**

The Research Fellows at UCL are Dr Charlotte Nussey ([charlotte.nussey@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:charlotte.nussey@ucl.ac.uk)) and Dr Lorena Sanchez Tyson ([lorena.sanchez@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:lorena.sanchez@ucl.ac.uk)). The Principal Investigator for the Transforming Universities for a Changing Climate study, based at University College London (UCL), is Professor Tristan McCowan ([t.mccowan@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:t.mccowan@ucl.ac.uk)). Please contact us if you have any further questions on this research.

**Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The 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](mailto: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:

For participants in research studies, click [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 lawful basis that will be used to process your personal data are: ‘Public task’ for personal data. 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 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](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk).