

## PARTICIPANTS INFORMATION SHEET

*YOU WILL BE GIVEN A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION SHEET.*

### **Title of study: Authentic resilience learning through critical reflection and its embedding into the postgraduate curricula**

Dear MRes Students,

You are invited to participate in this Studentshapers research project, in which you will have a dual role as both research participant and co-researcher. You will have a unique opportunity to 'self and 'peer' research on the topic of resilience (as you understand it); one of the lesser nuanced aspect of the postgraduate curriculum. **You should only participate if you want to; choosing not to take part will not affect your academic study.** Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why this research is being done and what your participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish.

**This study has been approved as a Studentshapers project and by the Education Ethics Review Process.**

### **What is a Studentshapers project?**

Studentshapers is an innovative scheme in which Imperial students get to work as partners alongside staff to engage deeply in education projects and co-create resources and/or become co-researchers.

### **What are the benefits of participation?**

In addition to bursary payments, there are other potential benefits to participants, including enhanced student experience and deeper insights into curriculum development.

### **Who can participate?**

For this project, only postgraduate students currently studying MRes at Faculty of Medicine are invited to participate. A total of 12 Studentshapers will be recruited.

### **What will be the time commitment?**

- Each Studentshapers will spend a total of 18 – 20 engaged hours, spread over 7 months of the project duration (no more than 5 hours in any given month).
- Studentshapers should be available and willing to attend 3-hour face to face **Wednesday afternoon** sessions at south Kensington on 13/11/19, 15/01/20, 29/04/20 and 13/05/20
- Studentshapers should be willing to write and submit 3\* reflective statements (500 – 750 words) and submit by the prescribed deadlines (27/11/19, 29/01/20, 01/04/20). Prompts for areas of reflection will be provided.

### **How much is the bursary payment?**

£315 per Studentshaper (£45 paid each month for a duration of 7 months, Nov 2019 – May 2020)

### **What is the aim of the study and why is it important?**

Reflection and Resilience are some of the critical transferable skills that are increasingly demanded by the employers. Resilience is a complex multifactorial phenomenon and very little research has been done in this area with respect to postgraduate STEM students. We would like to work with students as partners to understand your perceptions on resilience, as you understand it.

### **What does the study involve?**

You will work as one of 12 student partners in this project and share your perceptions and experiences on resilience, as you understand it. You will coach as well as learn from your peer Studentshapers through 2 face to face learning sessions. Over the duration of the project, you will also write 3 individual critical reflective statements (500-750 words) based on your recent experience(s) on challenging aspects of research. Finally, collectively in a focus group, all 12 Studentshapers will critically reflect and analyse the outcomes of the project and also propose practical ideas for incorporating 'resilience-building strategies' into the postgraduate curriculum. You will also be asked to answer a short multiple choice questionnaire once at the beginning of the project and once towards the end.

### **Will data be collected?**

Yes, being a research project, data will be collected at various stages during the project. Consent for data collection will be obtained from all Studentshapers before the beginning of the first session. Studentshapers will have a dual role to play as both research participants and 'self/co-researchers'. **Students who do not agree to data collection SHOULD NOT apply to the project call.**

### **How will data be collected and handled?**

1. Data will NOT be collected at the 2 face-to-face learning sessions.
2. Data from the 2 questionnaires will be collected via Qualtrics and then be exported to an excel sheet and immediately pseudonymised. After this, the Qualtrics portal will be closed and data permanently deleted from the portal.
3. 3X reflective statements will be collected via Qualtrics and then exported to an excel sheet and immediately pseudonymised.
4. Focus groups will be audio and/or video recorded. The recordings will then be manually transcribed, data anonymised and exported to word documents and recordings deleted permanently.
5. Further thematic analysis of the pseudonymised statements and transcripts will be carried out.

### **How will data be stored securely?**

All data files will be encrypted, password protected and stored in the College computer, as per College data protection/GDPR guidelines. The data will only be accessible to the Lead Researchers of this project. **No member of MRes programme team will have access to this data.**

### **Is there any risk of identification?**

1. After data anonymisation and analysis of questionnaires it is highly unlikely that your responses could be traceable back to you.
2. For reflective statements and focus groups participation, whilst you are expected to engage in reflections whole-heartedly, you are also strongly advised not to reveal personal details of yourself or any other member of staff you work with. However, if you choose to disclose your personal information within the focus group session, please be aware of the limits of confidentiality. Similarly, if a fellow participant chooses to disclose their personal information, please respect them by maintaining confidentiality. During transcription, if the researcher finds bits of conversations, that might potentially compromise identities, those part(s) of the data will be masked and not used for research purposes. Similarly, if you choose to disclose any sensitive information within your reflective writing, that might potentially compromise identities, the researchers will remove that part of the data from final analysis and reporting. Any obviously vulnerable students will be referred to the relevant College Welfare Systems. As investigators, we will discharge our duty of care and ethical responsibilities, in line with College guidelines, towards all participants. All data will be made anonymous and likely unidentifiable, however please be aware that depending what you share, there is a slight risk that data could potentially be linked back to you as an individual.

### **What will the data be analysed for?**

1. Your responses to questionnaires will help us understand your perceptions regarding resilience at the beginning and end of the project.
2. The thematic analysis of the 3X pseudonymised reflective statements will inform the individual learning journey of each Studentshaper through the duration of the project in an anonymised fashion.
3. Your critical reflection and analysis during the focus groups along with other peers will help you and us understand the usefulness of the learning activities as well as the learning journeys of Studentshapers. The outcomes of these discussions will inform if resilience can indeed be developed through coached critical reflections. The Studentshapers will also provide recommendations on practical ways to incorporate resilience building strategies into the postgraduate curriculum.

### **How will the results of the study be used?**

There is a high chance that the results of this study will be presented to the audience at Imperial College London and other national and international conferences and published in peer-reviewed journals. The Studentshapers will also have an opportunity to co-present the results if they wish.

### **What are the other expectations from Studentshapers?**

- There are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers/experiences for these questions/prompts. Being co-partners in the project, you are expected to critically reflect and write in full honesty. **There is NO assessment/marks/grades involved with your statements.**
- Being co-researchers, you will be expected to strictly abide by confidentiality clauses and ethical guidelines provided by College and BERA.

### **Can students withdraw consent at a later stage:**

**Yes, recruited Studentshapers have a right to withdraw consent at any point of time.** However, given the role of Studentshapers as co-researchers, please be advised that this will also mean the termination of Studentshapers contract, time commitments and bursary payments.

If you have any questions or require more information about this study, please contact the researcher using the following contact details:

**Dr Latha Ramakrishnan**

**email: [l.ramakrishnan@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:l.ramakrishnan@imperial.ac.uk)**

**Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this information.**