

Ryerson University Consent to Participate in Research

Project: Psychological Factors Affecting Undergraduate University Students' Academic Motivation

INTRODUCTION. You are invited to participate in a survey, as part of a research project at Ryerson University in partial fulfillment of a research practicum by Max Marshall under supervision by Dr. Lixia Yang, which is investigating psychological factors that affect undergraduate university students' academic motivation. This study is funded by the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) and has been reviewed and approved by the Ryerson University Research Ethics Board (2021-409).

WHAT YOU ARE BEING ASKED TO DO. We aim to recruit 2000 participants to complete an online survey that involves questions about your psychological well-being (e.g., anxiety, stress, motivation) as a student during the COVID-19 pandemic. It takes approximately 10 minutes. A private space will be the most appropriate location for completion. Please go through all the questions and click the "SUBMIT" button. This will demonstrate your full consent to participate. Your participation is completely voluntary, and your decision to or not to participate will not impact your relationship with us, with your community or Ryerson University in any way.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS AND RISKS. There is no direct benefit to you for taking part in this study. The research will shed light on how undergraduate university students have been impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic, and thus provide a foundation for prevention or intervention to address student mental health and motivation. The questions are typical in psychological surveys. Some of the questions in this survey pertain to self-worth and mental health, and as such, may be triggering to some participants or make you feel uncomfortable or upset. If you feel this way about any of the questions, you are free to decline to answer any questions (please just skip), or to stop your participation at any time by closing your browser without any negative impact. If you wish to seek emotional and/or mental health support as a result of any feelings that may result from your participation in this study, please see a list of accessible mental health resources below. If you have any questions or concerns with the content of the questions prior to, during, or after your participation, please contact cal@ryerson.ca with any concerns. If you terminate your participation by closing your browser or by not clicking the "SUBMIT" button at the end, your information collected up to that point will not be included in further analysis.

YOUR IDENTITY WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL. The only personal information that will be collected is your email address to be used to draw winners for an incentive lottery; however, your email address will not be associated or stored with your scores in any way. Submission of your email address is optional and only required if you wish to enter the prize draw. All submitted email addresses will be promptly deleted once the incentive lottery is drawn. We will not collect any other information that will identify you, such as your name, address or any other identifiers. Although your Internet Protocol (IP) address can be tracked, we will not collect this information in our data set. Your IP address may be observed only to ensure that one individual is not completing the survey multiple times. All the information we collect from you will be kept confidential. Note that after clicking the SUBMIT button at the end of the survey, you will not be able to withdraw your data; submitted data is not identifiable, and as such, we can not remove it from our responses.

This survey is built using a standard survey software, Qualtrics, and will be distributed through email. The data collected from the survey will be encrypted and backed up on the Qualtrics server for disaster recovery purposes only. The researcher will download the data to a secured data server maintained by

the Department of Psychology, Ryerson University. The researcher has the full ownership of the data (<https://www.qualtrics.com/privacy-statement/>). If you would rather participate through email or phone, please contact us at cal@ryerson.ca. Please note: email or phone-based surveys may disclose your identity to the researcher/s, but this information will be kept confidential. The USA Freedom Act will be followed in the handling of all data.

The survey data will be securely stored in a password-protected secure lab server and backed up to a password-protected shared Ryerson Google Drive folder, accessible only to the researchers in the team. Future publications or presentations will only report collective group information (i.e., aggregate data), but not the individual responses (i.e., raw data). The group results can be requested by participants and will be provided by mail or email. The data will be permanently deleted from the server (shared Google Drive folder) when no longer required 10 years after the publication of the results).

DATA WILL BE DISSEMINATED at conference presentations and in journal publications. The results of this study will also be accessible on the Cognitive Aging Lab website (which is publicly accessible at <https://psychlabs.ryerson.ca/cal/>) and from the Ryerson Digital Depository. The publications or presentations will only report collective group information (i.e., aggregate data), not the individual responses (i.e., raw data).

INCENTIVE FOR PARTICIPATION. For your participation, you will be entered into a draw using the email address that you provide. The prizes in this draw are Amazon eGift cards, with a total value of \$1,500, including 5 first prizes (\$100); 8 second prizes (\$50); 15 third prizes (\$20); and 30 fourth prizes (\$10). Gift certificates will be issued after the survey is completed and the lottery is drawn in February of 2022. You are able to participate without submitting your email, though to be entered into the draw, you must provide an email address in the Google Form found at the end of the survey. Your email addresses will not be associated in any way with your score. All email addresses will be promptly deleted following the draw.

YOUR RIGHTS AS A RESEARCH PARTICIPANT. Participation in research is completely voluntary and you can withdraw your consent at any point before clicking the 'SUBMIT' button at the end. Please note that by clicking the 'SUBMIT' button at the end of the survey you are providing your full consent for participation, but you are not waiving any of your legal rights as a research participant.

QUESTIONS. If you have any questions about this research, please feel free to contact us at cal@ryerson.ca. If you have any questions about your rights or treatment as a research participant in this study, please contact the Ryerson University Research Ethics Board at rebchair@ryerson.ca, or call (416) 979- 5042. Please also see below institutional contact information for the researchers of this study:

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MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES AND CONTACT INFORMATION.

Good2Talk (for post-secondary students in Ontario and Nova Scotia): <https://good2talk.ca/>

Here2Talk (for post-secondary students in British Columbia): <https://here2talk.ca/main>

The Quebec Crisis Center: <http://centredecrise.com/>

You may also consider referring to school-specific counseling services available at the institution that you attend.

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