

Transforming brick walls: Exploring barriers to belonging and progression experienced by trans students in higher education

WORKSHOP

Principal Researcher: Dr Lo Marshall, Postdoctoral Fellow - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Institute of Advanced Studies, UCL

Email: lo.marshall@ucl.ac.uk

Before you decide to take part in this project it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Thank you for reading this.

This study aims to identify key administrative, social, and intellectual barriers to belonging and progression experienced by trans people who have studied at UCL as an undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate student since 2010. Understanding what these barriers are and how they have been negotiated will enable researchers to make recommendations for how the barriers can be redressed, including through Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion policies and practices at UCL, and UK higher education institutions more widely.

Workshops will involve group discussions and activities that are intended to bring together participants' experiences of administrative, social and intellectual barriers, and identify ways in which UCL could address and remove the barriers identified. Workshops will last between 90 minutes and 2 hours and will be hosted online (via Zoom) or in person, depending upon Covid-19 circumstances and participants preferences. Workshops will be recorded, and recordings will be stored securely using the UCL Data Safe Haven, used for analyses only, and will be viewed by the principal researcher, Dr Lo Marshall and qUCL researchers only. Recordings will be deleted following the completion of research outputs.

Following-up interviews will be offered to all workshop participants, to enable extended discussions of personal experiences, and the disclosure of opinions or experiences that participants preferred not to share in a group context. Interview will last up-to 1 hour, and will be recorded for the purposes of analysis.

Inclusion Criteria

Trans people who are aged 18+ and have studied at UCL as an undergraduate, graduate or postgraduate since 2010.

In this research trans is understood as denoting or relating to a person whose gender does not correspond with their birth sex. Non-binary as an identity and an umbrella term for identities that are both, beyond, and between man and women, is considered part of the trans umbrella. So too are agender and other genderless identities, and indigenous genders that do not correspond with Western categories woman and man. People who are questioning their gender and wish to contribute to this research are welcome to participate.

All people who fit these criteria and would like to participate in this research during the field work time period (estimated as May – June 2022) will be accommodated. However, each workshop will be limited to 12 participants.

Do I have to take part?

Participating in this study is voluntary and participants may withdraw from the research without giving a reason at any time and without penalty. If you decide to withdraw you will be asked what you wish to happen to the information you have provided up to that point. Please note that it will not be possible to withdraw retrospectively from published research. To withdraw, participants should contact the principal researcher, Dr Lo Marshall – lo.marshall@ucl.ac.uk, or alternatively, or alternatively, Prof Nicola Miller - Nicola.miller@ucl.ac.uk

Recordings

Participants must agree for the workshop to be recorded on their consent form. If the workshop takes place online, there is no obligation for participants to have their camera on. Recordings will be stored securely, used only for research analysis and will be safely destroyed when the researcher has completed all publications related to upon the research project. Cut-off date for the deletion of recordings is September 2023.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

Workshops may involve discussing difficult experiences, which participants may find emotionally upsetting. If participants wish to take a break or leave the workshop, they may do so without giving a reason.

If a participant becomes distressed during a workshop the researcher will ask privately if they would like to continue and invite them to take a break and leave the workshop if they need to. If a participant leaves an workshop due to distress, the researcher will follow up with them to check on their welfare.

If participants feel the need to find support, they are recommended to contact *LGBT Switchboard* whose helpline is open 10.00 – 22.00 (GMT) every day (<https://switchboard.lgbt> 0300330 0630) or *London Friend* (<https://londonfriend.org.uk>). Samaritans phone lines are open 24 hours a day, every day, and offer a free, non-judgemental and confidential space to talk (115 123 - <https://www.samaritans.org>).

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Whilst there are no definite benefits for those people participating in the project, workshops may offer an opportunity to connect with other trans students at UCL, and it is hoped that this work will influence policy and practices at UCL, and UK Higher Education Institutions more widely, in way that will lower or remove social, administrative, and intellectual barriers experienced by trans students in the future.

What if something goes wrong?

If you wish to formally or informally report an incident where another person has behaved inappropriately or made you feel uncomfortable during the workshop please contact the Principal Researcher Dr Lo Marshall on lo.marshall@ucl.ac.uk

If you wish to complain about the Principal Researcher or feel that a complaint made to the Principal Researcher has not been handled to your satisfaction, please contact the Director of the Institute of Advanced Studies, Prof Nicola Miller via Nicola.Miller@UCL.ac.uk, or Chair of the UCL Research Ethics Committee via ethics@ucl.ac.uk

Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?

All the information collected about participants during the course of the research will be kept confidential and stored in the UCL Data Safe Haven. Pseudonyms will be used, and participants will not be identifiable in any ensuing reports or publications.

Due to the relatively small number of trans students in the UCL student body, and because participants will potentially be the only or one of few trans people studying a single course, in the research outputs individual pseudonymised participant contributions will not be linked to courses. Academic disciplines or departments may be referenced, however not at the expense of participant confidentiality, which will be a priority.

If you are interested in participating in the research but have concerns regarding identification and confidentiality, please feel free to contact Lo Marshall to discuss specific arrangements that you wish to make these will be accommodated insofar as possible. Participant comfort and safety is a priority in this research, and the research is very willing to work with participants where there are additional needs regarding this. Specific arrangements could include, for example, participating in a one-to-one interview, but not a workshop.

Limits to confidentiality

- Please note that although confidentiality will be requested from workshop participants, this may not be guaranteed.
- Confidentiality will be respected subject to legal constraints and professional guidelines.
- Confidentiality will be respected unless there are compelling and legitimate reasons for this to be breached. If this was the case, we would inform you of any decisions that might limit your confidentiality.

What will happen to the results of the research project?

The results of this research will be published as part of wider research on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in the Institute of Advanced Studies, at UCL. The report will include research findings, analysis, and recommendations, and will be shared across UCL with the intention of influencing policy and practice. The report will be open access and publicly available in Autumn 2022, and it will be promoted among LGBTQ+, trans and EDI networks, including the Feminist Gender Equality Network.

Research findings, analysis and recommendations will also inform journal publications and public presentations, and may become the basis for further publications.

Local Data Protection Privacy Notice

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

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](#)

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 special category personal data collected will be as follows:

Gender, sexuality, age, race/ethnicity, faith, nationality, migration status in the UK, disability, neurodivergence, socio-economic background.

Participants will have the option to highlight further personal information that they consider relevant to the research.

This data will be collected on an optional basis for the purposes of enabling researchers to more accurately refer to and understand participant's identities, background and circumstances as pseudonymized individuals and collectively.

The lawful basis that will be used to process your personal data are: 'Public task' for personal data and 'Research purposes' for special category data.

Your personal data will be processed so long as it is required for the research project. Personal data will be pseudonymised and we 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.

Contact for further information

For further information please contact Lo Marshall via lo.marshall@ucl.ac.uk

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research study.