

Academic Writing Beliefs

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To help you decide whether you would like to take part in this survey study, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the information below carefully before deciding to take part. If you are happy to participate, you will need to indicate this by ticking the consent box at the end of this form.

What is the research about?

This study forms part of a wider PhD project looking at how students with and without dyslexia write for academic purposes. I am a University of Southampton PhD student and I am conducting this survey to gain a better understanding of how university students' beliefs about writing affect the way they approach academic writing tasks. Combined with the findings of another study I am running, this project will give a deeper insight into the writing processes used by students with and without dyslexia. This will lead to greater knowledge about the similarities and differences between dyslexic and non-dyslexic writers. The results from this project, along with further research, will hopefully influence the types of writing support on offer for students at university.

This work is funded by the South Coast Doctoral Training Partnership through the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). ESRC funded projects aim to produce real world impact that can make a positive difference to people's lives. More information about the ESRC can be found at <https://esrc.ukri.org/>.

Why have I been asked to participate?

I am interested in how writing beliefs concerning academic tasks vary across disciplines and years of study. Therefore, I am contacting current undergraduate, masters and PhD students from a range of disciplines.

What will happen to me if I take part?

This questionnaire consists of two sections. The first section will ask you about your background, including whether you have a dyslexia diagnosis or not, which university you attend, the course you are studying and the grades that you have achieved in your studies so far. The second section will consist of a set of statements that students have made about academic writing, and will ask you to rate the extent to which you agree/disagree with them. None of the statements are necessarily "correct" beliefs - we all differ in how we approach writing, so please rate them as honestly as possible in terms of how well they correspond with your personal beliefs.

The questionnaire should take approximately 15 minutes to complete. No further involvement is required.

Are there any benefits in my taking part?

By taking part in this study, you will be adding to the current academic knowledge base we have about students' writing beliefs. In the future, the evidence obtained from this questionnaire, along with other writing studies, could lead to developments in the academic provision for students in higher education in general, as well as to the development of writing support for students with dyslexia.

At the end of this survey you will be asked if you are interested in taking part in my second study which focuses on the writing processes used by dyslexic and non-dyslexic students. This separate study will offer you the opportunity to be entered into a prize draw, giving you the chance to win one of five £100 Amazon Vouchers.

What data will be collected?

All of your questionnaire responses will be anonymous and stored in password protected, encrypted files on the University of Southampton's secure server.

If you wish to be contacted about the second study mentioned in the above section, your name and email address will be recorded, but these will be stored separately from your questionnaire responses on a secure database only accessible to the main researcher. You must be a University of Southampton student to take part in the second study.

Are there any risks involved?

There are no special risks involved in participating in this survey.

Will my participation be confidential?

This study complies with GDPR, the Data Protection Act and the University of Southampton ethics policy, and your participation will be completely confidential. Your responses will be stored anonymously in an encrypted, password protected file on the University of Southampton's secure server, separate from your e-mail address (which you may supply if you want to be involved in the second study).

On completion of my PhD, the anonymous questionnaire data from this study will be made available to other researchers in line with the University of Southampton and the ESRC's research data management policies. Your participation will still remain anonymous and confidential.

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 confirm this by ticking the consent box at the end of this form.

What happens if I change my mind?

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw at any time whilst filling in the questionnaire without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected. However, please be aware that once you have submitted the questionnaire withdrawal will no longer be possible. This is because your submitted data will be anonymised and therefore impossible to trace back to you.

What will happen to the results of the research?

The results from this survey will be written up as part of my PhD thesis. The research findings made available in any reports or publications will not include information that can identify you.

Where can I get more information?

If you would like more information about the study, you can contact Sophie Hall (s.m.hall@soton.ac.uk) at the University of Southampton.

What happens if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researcher, Sophie Hall (s.m.hall@soton.ac.uk). She will do her 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).