

Informed Consent Form

You are being invited to participate in a study entitled INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUCCESS: HOW EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING EXPERIENCES AFFECT THE SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS that is being conducted by Dr. Jessica Merolli and Dr. Lisa Droogendyk. Dr. Merolli is a Professor in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Sheridan and you may contact her if you have further questions by emailing Jessica.merolli@sheridancollege.ca

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this research project is to learn more about how housing and employment experiences during college affect international student's academic success and their long-term employment and immigration plans. The research will also look at the affect that Covid-19 had on international students at Sheridan.

Research of this type is important because it can help Sheridan create better programs and policies to support international students. The research may also be used to create better immigration policies for international students.

The project is being funded by the Sheridan Centre for Research through a SRCA Growth Grant.

You can find more information on this project at
<https://internationalstudentsurvey.sheridancollege.ca/>

This project has been approved by Sheridan College's Research Ethics Board. If you have any questions about the ethics approval process, this form, or concerns about the administration of the project, you can contact Dr. Kirsten Madsen, chair of Sheridan College Research Ethics Board (kirsten.madsen@sheridancollege.ca).

Risks and Benefits of Participation

You are being asked to participate in this study because you are an international student who was enrolled at Sheridan on or before February 1, 2020.

If you agree to voluntarily participate in this research, your participation will include the completion of a 45 minute survey.

There are some potential risks to you by participating in this research and they include the emotional impact of sharing your experiences and struggles as an international student. If you

experience these emotional impacts, there is a list of free mental health services at the end of this letter you can access.

There is a risk that if the data we collect was released, it could affect your immigration status. In order to protect against this, we will not ask you to share your name, and if you provide an email address it will be kept confidential to the extent provided by law. Your email address will be collected separately from your survey responses and only used to send you a stipend in appreciation for your participation. After the stipends have been sent and the survey closes, your email address will be deleted from our records. Your survey responses, with identifying information removed will be securely stored on a secure Sheridan College server. Survey responses will be retained for 15 years, after which they will be removed from Sheridan College servers and destroyed.

All data related to the survey findings will be presented only in summary form and your personal information will not be used in any report. Results and reports from this survey will be shared with the International Centre, who will have an opportunity to respond to the reports before they are published publicly. However, the International Centre will not have access to the survey responses directly.

If you do not feel comfortable answering any question in the survey, you may select the option “prefer not to say” or when you are asked to write your response, you can enter “prefer not to say.” If you do not want to complete the survey once you begin, you can click “exit and clear survey.” Data from incomplete surveys will be deleted.

Participation in the survey is completely voluntary and will not affect any of the services or support you received at Sheridan. If you are enrolled in a class with the investigators, it will not affect the outcome in that class. The data collected during the 2020 fall term, will not be analyzed until the spring term of 2021.

The potential benefits of your participation in this study include improvement to services at Sheridan as a result of the study’s findings. To compensate you for any inconvenience related to your participation, you will be given \$25 CAD e-gift card. It is important for you to know that it is unethical to provide undue compensation or inducements to research participants.

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☐ I have read the preceding information thoroughly. I have had the opportunity to ask questions, and all of my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I agree to participate in this study. I understand that I will receive a digital copy of this form.

☐ I do not agree to participate in this study.

Follow-up Study

The investigators will be administering a follow-up study. Participation in the follow-up study is also voluntary and will not affect any of the services or supports you receive from Sheridan. The purpose of the follow-up study is to investigate if participants have met their long-term employment and immigration goals. If you participate in the follow-up study, you will be contacted 2 years after you graduate from Sheridan College, using an email you provide.

Your email will be kept confidential to the extent provided by law. If you choose to participate in the follow-up survey, your email address will be removed from the data and will be replaced with a number. A list linking the number with your email address will be kept in a password protected file on a secure Sheridan College server and will be kept separate from your survey responses ('data'). Your email address for the follow-up survey will be kept for 6 years. After 6 years, the file containing all email addresses will be removed from the server and destroyed. Sheridan College will protect the confidentiality of the data to the full extent of the law

You can withdraw from the follow-up study by emailing the lead investigator Dr. Jessica Merolli at Jessica.merolli@sheridancollege.ca. If you withdraw from the follow-up study, your contact information will be deleted.

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- ☐ I do not want to participate in the Follow-Up Study.

OR

- ☐ I understand that participation in the follow-up study is completely voluntary and does not affect my participation in the survey being conducted now.
- ☐ I would like to participate in the follow-up study for this research project.
- ☐ I consent to the investigators using the email address I provide below to contact me 2 years after my expected date of graduation.

The email address I would like to be reached at is: _____

(Use an email address you think you will still be using in the future. **Do not use your Sheridan email**)

My expected date of graduation is: _____

Mental Health Support Services Available to International Students

Keep.me SAFE by Guard.Me

All international students at Sheridan have access to support for mental health challenges through their health insurance provided by Guard.Me.

Keep.me SAFE provides confidential and private service to students with 24/7 access to multilingual and multicultural experts, so that students may discuss their challenges and concerns with someone who speaks their language and understands their culture.

Students can access support by one of the following methods:

- Download My SSP App from Apple or Android store
- Calling 1-844-451-9700, or
- Visiting www.keepmesafe.org

Good2Talk

Good2Talk is a free, 24/7 support service available to any student studying at a post-secondary institution or Indigenous Institute in Ontario. By calling Good2Talk at 1-866-925-5454, students can receive information and referrals about services and supports for mental health, addictions and well-being on and off campus and speak anonymously with a professional counsellor.

All post-secondary students can also access free, text-based support through Good2Talk's partnership with Crisis Text Line powered by Kids Help Phone. By texting GOOD2TALKON to 686868, students can chat with a trained volunteer Crisis Responder.