

GSA LIBRARY

Help us make GSA Library a supportive and welcoming environment for the neurodiverse.

Purpose of study:

The study will determine the ways in which the library supports diverse users by default and highlight potential environmental/sensory stressors and resource gaps that should be amended to better support students with learning differences.

Who is undertaking this study?

The study is being undertaken by Learning Resources, Glasgow School of Art. The person responsible for this study is:

James Robertson
SCONUL Graduate Trainee Librarian
Glasgow School of Art
E: j.robertson@gsa.ac.uk

What will happen during this study?

A focus group will take place in which participants will be asked a series of questions about their experiences of using the library.

As a group we will discuss what alterations could be made in any aspects of the library to better support us and enhance our experience and ability to use the library effectively and comfortably. Topics of discussion will be:

- The use of library guides.
- Social Story/maps/Signage
- Lighting/colour/sensory experiences
- Quiet spaces

A library guide for students with ASD created by University College London will be assessed and considered as a potential template for use at GSA. Our own version will be dyslexia friendly.

General mental health will also be a topic for discussion, which is important for all students at GSA.

What knowledge or experience is required for this study?

We are looking for anyone who is willing to share their first-hand experiences of the library environment and how it supports or hinders users with ASD, ADHD, or Dyslexia.

Your input will be invaluable in informing us of ways in which we can improve our services and what strategies we can put in place to better support you and other students in the future.

Do I have to participate in this study?

You are not under obligation to participate, but doing so will help us develop our library services to better support you and all our students in the future.

Should you wish to withdraw at any stage you are free to do so without giving a reason.

What are the potential benefits of taking part in this study?

The ultimate benefit to you will be an improved library support, resources, and environment, one in which you are comfortable and feel supported.

What are the potential risks of taking part in this study?

There are no foreseeable risks involved in this study and participants are free to withdraw at any stage without giving reason. You will not be required to disclose any cognitive conditions, unless you decide to do so.

How will the findings be disseminated?

The findings will be shared between Learning Support and Learning Resources, but will be completely anonymised.

Will my response to this study remain confidential?

It will be entirely confidential. We are solely interested in your experience of the library, its services and resources. We will not record names, dates of birth, or

addresses; only opinions and suggestions. All feedback and responses will remain anonymised.

What oversight is this study subject to?

This study will be conducted according to the principles outlined in the Glasgow School of Art Research Ethics policy. These principles are:

- Respect for human dignity
- Free and informed consent
- Respect for vulnerable persons
- Respect for privacy and confidentiality
- Respect for justice and inclusivity
- Balancing harms and benefits

The study leader can provide copies of the policy upon request. If you feel you have any complaints about the study, please contact the overseer:

Duncan Chappell

Academic Liaison Librarian

Glasgow School of Art

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