

Permission to Take Part in a Human Research Study

Title of research study: Assessing Belongingness among First-Gen LGBTQIA+ Students at VCU

Investigator: Traci Wike (Principal Investigator), PhD, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, twike@vcu.edu

Key Information: The following is a short summary of this study to help you decide whether or not you would like to participate. More detailed information is available at the end of this form.

Why am I being invited to take part in a research study?

You are invited to participate in this study because you are a VCU student that identifies as a first-generation college student that is part of the LGBTQIA+ community. We invite you to take part in a research project which aims to:

1. Listen to the stories of how LGBTQIA+ first generation students navigate their identities in the transition to college at VCU
2. Co-create an understanding of their strengths and challenges
3. Share a collective vision for increasing positive wellbeing and academic success in the VCU environment.

You are invited because you identify as a first generation college student (age 18 or older) at VCU and you identify as a member of the LGBTQ+ community.

What should I know about a research study?

- Whether or not you take part is up to you.
- You can choose not to take part.
- After agreeing to participate, you can stop or choose not to engage in Photovoice groups at any time.
- Your decision will not be held against you.
- You can ask as many questions as you want before you decide.

Please feel free to contact the Principal Investigator (Dr. Wike) with any questions: twike@vcu.edu at any time.

Why is this research being done?

First-generation college students who identify as LGBTQIA are more likely to face additional stressors during the college transition such as coming out, transitioning gender identities, encountering non-affirming and/or hostile campus and work environments, and experiencing a lack of access to inclusive health and mental health services. A lack of research exists focused specifically on the experiences of LGBTQIA first-generation students. Therefore, your participation will assist with the understanding of these experiences and increase the availability of inclusive needs for support.

How long will the research last, and what will I need to do?

You will be asked to participate in three 1.5 hour photovoice sessions over the course of three weeks.

For your time and effort, we provide compensation of a \$25 giftcard per session.***What is photovoice?***

Photovoice is a community-based, participatory action research method developed to empower participant voice and provide tools for self-advocacy among marginalized groups. Using photos, facilitators invite participants to share an aspect of their lives and engage in critical dialogue about ways to create change

Is there any way being in this study could be bad for me?

This study may involve minimal risk and discomfort. There is a chance that you may feel uncomfortable during the group meetings. The probability of risk and discomfort will not be greater than your daily life encounters. There is also a potential of breach of confidentiality by other participants. You may refuse to answer any of the questions, take a break, or stop participating in the study at any time.

Will being in this study help me in any way?

There are no direct benefits to you from your participation in this research. However, your feedback will enable the study team and VCU to enhance on-campus initiatives focused on LGBTQIA+ First-Gen students' well-being.

What happens if I do not want to be in this research?

Participation in this research is completely voluntary. You can decide to participate, not participate, or discontinue participation at any time without penalty.

Detailed Information: The following is more detailed information about this study in addition to the information listed above.

Who can I talk to?

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints, or think the research has caused you harm, please feel free to speak to the study lead, Dr. Traci Wike (Principal Investigator), Associate Professor, School of Social Work, twike@vcu.edu

This research has been reviewed and approved by an Institutional Review Board ("IRB"). You may talk to them at (804) 828-0868 or HRPP@vcu.edu if:

- Your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team.
- You cannot reach the research team.
- You want to talk to someone besides the research team.
- You have questions about your rights as a research subject.
- You want to get information or provide input about this research.

How many people will be studied?

We expect approximately 24 VCU students will participate in this study.

What happens if I say yes, I want to be in this research?

You will be asked to participate in three 1.5 hour group photovoice sessions either in person or via zoom. You have the right to exit at any point or choose not to answer if you wish for any reason.

For your time and effort, we provide compensation of a \$25 giftcard per session.

What are my responsibilities if I take part in this research?

If you take part in this research, you will be asked to: 1) participate in three 1.5 hour group photovoice sessions, 2) take photos in between sessions, 3) share and discuss photos in each group session, and 4) determine with the group how and with whom the results should be disseminated.

What happens if I say yes, but I change my mind later?

Your participation is completely voluntary. You may change your mind later and withdraw from the study at any time. Your decision will not affect your current or future relations with VCU. There is no penalty or loss of benefits for not participating or for discontinuing your participation.

Is there any way being in this study could be bad for me? (Detailed Risks)

This study may involve minimal risk and discomfort. There is a chance that you may feel uncomfortable, or you could become emotionally upset by content discussed in the focus groups. The probability of risk and discomfort will not be greater than your daily life encounters. You may refuse to answer any of the questions, take a break, or stop participating in the study at any time.

Breach of confidentiality is always a risk with any research study and the PI and research team will take steps to ensure the confidentiality of study participants is protected. This includes reminding group participants to keep all information during group sessions confidential and not to discuss or disclose any information to outside parties. It is important to note, however, that the research team cannot guarantee a breach of confidentiality will not occur. Our research team works in compliance with VCU's research and policies to ensure participant information is handled with care and confidentiality.

What happens to the information collected for the research?

Any information you share with the research team will be kept completely confidential and private. You will not be identified in any report or publication about this study. The research team will store any collected data in a locked filing cabinet at the PI's office or in the research team's password-protected VCU computers/servers, with access restricted to staff working on the project. Data will be de-identified, and any identifiable information will be removed immediately upon the study's completion. All project staff have completed the appropriate human subjects' training and will sign a confidentiality agreement prior to beginning any research.

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Can I be removed from the research without my OK?

The person in charge of the research study or the sponsor can remove you from the research study without your approval. This could be because you have failed to follow instructions, or because the entire study has been stopped.

What else do I need to know?

This research is being funded by a VCU YouFirst Student Success Grant.