



Faculty of Health First Year Nursing Students' Difficult Experiences

Research Study Letter of Information

April 10, 2015

Dear Student:

We are involved in a retrospective study to explore the extent, nature, and impact of first year Faculty of Health (FoH) Students' difficult experiences encountered while attending the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) or Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing (BPN) programs at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. We will be gathering information to answer the research questions by implementing an online survey to students who were enrolled in their first semester of the BSN or BPN from January 2012 to September 2016. We also plan to conduct individual interviews of at least 6 randomly selected volunteer respondents from each of the 2 programs per each of the six semesters.

We would like you to participate in the anonymous, confidential online survey for the purpose of gathering information about the difficulties you experienced during your first-year of the nursing program, the impact that it had on you, and the support measures that you needed. The information that you provide will help us not only better understand the nature, extent, and impact of first year students' difficult experiences but also assist us in developing curriculum, institutional policy, and support measures to enhance students' success. Upon completion of the online survey, you will also have the opportunity to participate in a confidential, private individual interview to provide more in-depth information about your experience.

Utmost care and attention will be taken to ensure your sense of comfort, safety, and privacy throughout each stage of the research process. Your participation (or non-participation) in the online survey and an individual interview is completely voluntary and will not affect your grade in any course. You may withdraw from the study at any time without any consequence to you. If you withdraw from the study the data that you provided will be withdrawn as well. Your name will not be used at any time, nor will your identity be revealed at any time. It is important to acknowledge that students who have encountered difficult experiences during their first year may re-experience some uncomfortable memories or emotions while completing the survey or answering the interview questions. If you experience such effects and would like support to assist you in processing the experience, please contact the Kwantlen Polytechnic University Student Counselling at 604-599-2100.

The online survey data will be analyzed using SPSS software to generate descriptive and qualitative data. The individual interviews will be transcribed by the researcher and the audiotapes will be stored in a secure locked cabinet in a secure locked office at Kwantlen Polytechnic University for 5 years upon

completion of the data analysis of the study. You may request a copy of the study results of the interviews after the data analysis has been completed in Sept. 2017. We also anticipate sharing the results of the study in conferences and in published papers. If you wish to request a copy of the results after completion of the data analysis, please contact Dr. Lida Blizard at lida.blizard@kpu.ca. The data will be destroyed 5 years following final summary and publication of the findings.

If you have any questions about the online survey or the individual interviews or any component of this research study, please contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Lida Blizard (lida.blizard@kpu.ca) in the Faculty of Health at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. If you have any concerns about this research study, you may contact Megan Meredith-Lobay, Research Ethics Coordinator ([emailto:megan.meredith-lobay@kpu.ca](mailto:megan.meredith-lobay@kpu.ca)).

If you are willing to participate in this study, please proceed to the Online Survey Consent Form attached.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lida Blizard".

Primary Investigator: Lida Blizard, Ed.D. M.A. BSN
Faculty of Health,
Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Co-Investigators: Dr. Gamini Randini, Faculty, BPN Program, Dr. Alice MacPherson, Learning Strategist, KPU Learning Centre; Wendy Belter, Councillor, KPU Councillor; Laurie Detwiler, Councillor, KPU Councillor;