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**PGR WELLNET Survey
Participant Information Sheet**

Study Title

Using social network analysis to understand relationships, social support, and wellbeing of postgraduate researchers – a mixed methods study (PGR WELLNET)

Researchers

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Contact details

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Invitation to participate and the purpose of the study

You are being invited to take part in a study undertaken by researchers from the University of Glasgow investigating the wellbeing of postgraduate researchers (PGRs) and looking more closely into the role of relationships and social support. Relationships are one of the most important aspects of our lives. During your PhD, other people can be an invaluable source of comfort, support, help and advice. The way you connect with them may affect your research experience and your wellbeing and we would like to learn more about how this happens. This knowledge will help us understand the needs of PGRs and what can universities do to help enhance the support system and the wellbeing of this community.

Why have I been chosen?

All PGRs currently undertaking a PhD study in the UK are welcome to take part. We would like to hear from as many PGRs as possible and would be grateful if you could share the link to our survey with other PGRs. **However, the survey is open only to PGRs studying for a PhD in the UK.**

What does my participation involve?

You will be asked to fill in an online survey investigating PGR wellbeing, social support and relationships. This will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. The Privacy Notice specifies what personal data we are collecting from you and explains that we will hold and process your data securely. You can download it here or from the [study website*](#). If you choose to tell someone you

mentioned them in the study, you can give them this Privacy Notice to show them how we process personal data. Remember, all your answers are entirely confidential and we will never talk to anyone else about the data you provided.

We would like to learn how your personal experiences change during your PhD. This is why we would appreciate if you would agree to be contacted again in 6-12 months to fill in the second survey. All participants who take part in both surveys will enter a prize draw for two sets of Amazon vouchers worth £100 each. We are also looking to interview a small number of participants to learn more about their experiences of relationships and wellbeing. Participants who get selected to take part in the interviews will be given £20 in Amazon vouchers per interview as a thank you for their time. You will be offered to consent to these at the end of the survey.

Do I have to take part?

Your participation in the study is by no means compulsory and you can withdraw from the study before or after consenting to take part, without giving any reasons or having any consequences for doing so. However, your data collected until that point will be retained and used for the analysis.

Will my participation be anonymous and confidential?

You will be asked to provide a name and contact details if you consent to further participation. We will ask you not to refer to other people by their real names. During analyses and in publications all personal and place names, including nicknames, will be replaced with codes or pseudonyms to ensure anonymity. Your data will be stored securely and no-one outside of the research team or appropriate research governance staff will be able to find out your name, or any other information that could identify you. We will only pass information that you provide to anyone outside the study if we have concerns about your or anyone else's safety.

What will happen with the results of the study?

The results will help us propose ways to improve PGR wellbeing. The study will form the basis of Jelena Milicev's PhD thesis to be submitted to the University of Glasgow, Institute of Health and Wellbeing, as well as to academic conferences and peer-reviewed journals for publication. Findings may also be shared with stakeholders at the University of Glasgow and other academic and research institutions and discussed at relevant workshops, meetings and presentations.

Who can I contact for more information?

Should you require any further information before or after your participation, please do not hesitate to contact Jelena Milicev or Prof Sharon Simpson using the email addresses above.

*Study website:

https://www.gla.ac.uk/researchinstitutes/healthwellbeing/research/mrccsocialandpublichealthsciencesunit/phdstudentships/phds/jelena_milicev/#projectabstract