

# Information Statement



## Recollections of puberty in early adulthood

*Thank you for considering participating in this research study.*

*The purpose of this document is to enable you to make an informed decision about participating. It explains what the research is about, how it will be used, and what your participation would involve.*

### **What's the purpose of the study?**

This study aims to explore how young adults remember the experience of puberty. It looks at how the physical changes of puberty are perceived, how these changes might affect the way that young people view themselves and others, and how they might influence the social interactions of young people.

### **What will the study involve?**

This study involves participating in an interview that will take about one hour on MS Teams. There will be no in-person contact. You will be asked questions regarding your memories of when you experienced puberty.

The interview will be recorded and transcribed. Immediately after the interview, the video portion of the recording will be deleted, and only the audio and transcript files will be saved. Only the researcher will know who you are, and your identity will be made anonymous after the interview and for the remainder of the study.

The interviewer is a UCC researcher under the supervision of UCC staff member Dr. Samantha Dockray. Dr. Dockray will not know the identities of participants. The interviewer will conduct practice interviews under Dr. Dockray's supervision prior to interviewing participants.

You can skip any question during the interview or completely withdraw from the study within two weeks after the time and date of the interview. If you wish to retract responses or withdraw, you will contact Samantha Dockray ([s.dockray@ucc.ie](mailto:s.dockray@ucc.ie)) with the date and time of your interview and Samantha will delete it, and any interview data and any recordings will be permanently deleted.

### **Why are you being asked to participate?**

You have been asked to take part in this study because you are aged 18-25 years and can easily converse in English.

**Do you have to take part?**

Participation is completely voluntary. You are under no obligation to take part in the research study, and you have the right to refuse to participate and/or refuse to answer specific questions. If you participate in the interview, you may withdraw your responses from the study up to two weeks after the date and time of your interview. You will be asked to affirm your consent to participate prior to the interview and again after the interview.

**Will your participation in the study be kept confidential?**

All information you provide will be confidential. Only the researcher will know your identity during the interview. After the interview, all identifying information regarding yourself and anyone you mention during the interview will be made anonymous. No one else in the research team will be able to identify you or match you to your interview.

**What will happen to the information that you provide?**

All of the information that you provide will be collected via a password-protected and encrypted computer, and it will be stored in a password-protected file on UCC OneDrive. The file will be accessible to the researcher team and Samantha Dockray. After a ten-year period, all information will be destroyed.

**What will happen to the study results?**

The results will be analysed and only accessed by researchers under the direction of Samantha Dockray. The study may be presented in research team dissertations, as well as at conferences and/or published, for example, in a peer-reviewed or professional journal.

**What are the possible disadvantages of taking part?**

No negative outcomes are anticipated from participating in this study. Should you experience worry or distress arising from participating in the research, you may wish to avail of the support services in the university by contacting either or both of the following:

UCC Student Counselling and Development  
UCC Student Crisis Line

[counselling@ucc.ie](mailto:counselling@ucc.ie) / +353 (0)21 4903565  
086 1800 280 (text 'UCC' 24/7)

**Who has reviewed this study?**

Ethical approval for this study has been granted by the School of Applied Psychology, UCC.

**Have questions?**

If you'd like more information, please contact Samantha Dockray ([s.dockray@ucc.ie](mailto:s.dockray@ucc.ie))