

APPENDIX A: PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT

Plain Language Statement for Research Participants

1. Introduction to the Research Study

- The research working title is *A qualitative exploration of Irish undergraduate students' experiences with culturally diverse students in DCU*.
- The research is being conducted by Ciarán Dunne, a PhD student in the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies (SALIS), in DCU.
- Ciarán Dunne can be contacted at ciarane.dunne@dcu.ie.

2. Details of Involvement in the Study

- Participants will be required to be available for at least one face-to-face interview with the principal researcher.
- It is possible that the researcher may request a follow-up interview.
- Interviews should last no longer than 1 hour.
- The researcher will request that interviews be recorded (audio only) in order to facilitate data gathering and subsequent data analysis. Participants retain the right to decline the researcher's request to record an interview.
- Interviews will take place during the 2006/2007 academic year.

3. Potential Risks to Participants arising from involvement in the Research Study

- It is not envisaged that there are any risks to participants arising from involvement in the study.

4. Benefits (direct or indirect) to Participants

- It is intended that the outcomes of this study will help inform policy for improving student relations on campus. Therefore, it is hoped that participants, and future DCU students, may indirectly benefit from participation in the study in the future.

5. Procedures aimed at protecting confidentiality

- Every effort will be made to respect participants' anonymity.
- The data collected will be analysed by the principal researcher alone.
- Participants' actual names will be protected.
- Interview notes and/or transcripts will be held by the principal researcher and stored in a secure location.

6. **Data Destruction**

- It is planned that the data collected from interviews will be destroyed within three years from the initial date of collection.

7. **Voluntary Participation**

- Participants may withdraw from the Research Study at any point. There will be no penalty for withdrawing before all stages of the Research Study have been completed.

8. **Additional Information**

- It is envisaged that in total approximately thirty participants will be interviewed as part of this study. All participants will be full-time undergraduate students in DCU.

If participants have concerns about this study and wish to contact an independent person, please contact:

The Secretary,
Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee,
c/o Office of the Vice-President for Research,
Dublin City University,
Dublin 9.

Tel 01-7008000