

## Young People at a Crossroads

### Information Sheet for Young People aged 16-18 in the UK

You are being invited to take part in the research project 'Young People at a Crossroads'. The research is being led by Catherine Walker at University of Manchester and involves researchers at three universities in the UK and Australia (the Universities of Manchester, Melbourne and Wollongong).

Before you decide whether to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being conducted and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully and discuss any questions you have with a parent or guardian and then with the researcher who sent you this information sheet.

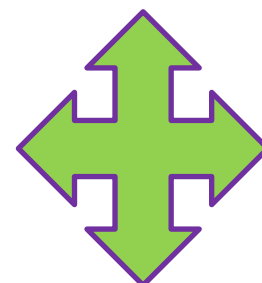
**Please note, for this project, young researchers should be:**

- Aged 14-18 at the time of starting the research (June 2021)
- Living in Manchester or Melbourne
- A second-generation immigrant, that is, you were born in Australia or the UK, but one or more of your parents/guardians migrated to the UK or Australia before you were born. We are particularly interested in families where parents migrated from a country in **Africa, Asia, the Middle East, the Pacific or Central/South America.**

**If you are not sure if the research applies to you but you are interested in taking part, please contact the researcher who sent you this information.**

### What is the 'Young people at a Crossroads' project about?

Many people have said that humanity is at a 'crossroads' in terms of the path we take to tackle climate change. Yet often people do not speak to young people about their ideas about climate change, or if they do, they only speak to 'big name' campaigners like Greta Thunberg. In addition, people in countries like the UK and Australia who are trying to find solutions to climate change may not consider that some people living in their cities have migrated from countries where they already had to learn to adapt to climate change and other environmental challenges.



**We are inviting young people aged 14-18 whose parents have migrated to Manchester or Melbourne (up to 15 young people in each city) to play a key role in this project as 'young researchers'.** Young researchers will play a very important part in the research project – as well as sharing your own experiences of learning about climate change and the environment, you will interview a parent or guardian about their experiences of climate change and the environment in countries where they grew up, and you will help the researchers and a group of teachers to think about how climate change education can be improved in response to findings from the project.

### Why is this research being done and will it be published?

The project aims to find out how families are talking about and adapting to climate change, particularly families where one or more parents migrated and may have experience of responding to climate change or other environmental challenges in the country where they grew up.

Research findings will be published in journals and presented at conferences for academics and teachers. Findings may also be written about in blogs, teaching materials or in newspapers. Participants will also contribute to a book of stories, which will be available on the project website and will be shared with all participant families and teachers who are part of the project. The book of stories may also be published as a teaching resource and stored in a community library.

## Who is organising and approving the research?

The project has been reviewed and approved by The University of Manchester Research Ethics Committee 5 (reference 2021-11462-18689), the University of Melbourne Research Ethics Committee (reference 2021-21640-17977-3). The project is funded by the UK Government's Economic and Social Research Council (grant ES/T015594/1).

## What would I do as a 'young researcher'?

If you agree to take part in the research as a 'young researcher' (YR) on the project, you will be invited to take part in the activities below. There is no obligation to take part in any activity.

### July/August 2021: Get talking

#### 3 Zoom calls / Maximum time commitment 3 hours

Meet other YRs from Manchester and Melbourne in a **welcome call**.

**Be interviewed together with one other YR** (over Zoom).

Take part in a **focus group** (over Zoom) with other YRs in your city.

### August 2021: Interview training

#### 1 Zoom call/Maximum time commitment 2 hours

Over two separate Zoom calls, **receive training from researchers** on how to conduct an interview, and **prepare questions** to ask your parents or guardians, and try out interviewing with other YRs.

### August/September 2021: Hear from parents/guardians

#### 2 interviews on Zoom or face-to-face Maximum time commitment 2 hours

**Interview parents/guardians** to find out about their experiences of their environment where they grew up.

Together with your parents/guardians, take part in a **'debrief' interview with the researcher**.

### October – November 2021: Create content for the project book

#### In your own time, offline Time commitment expected to be around 3 hours

Read the transcript of your interview with parents/guardians and **select some stories of climate change adaptation** that were told in interviews and that you wish to share in the project book. **Decide together how you wish to present these stories in the project book**.

**Send your book pages** before the final Zoom calls.

### December 2021: Discuss the project book

#### 2 Zoom calls / Maximum time commitment 2 hours

**Two final Zoom calls will be held.** Before these calls, the researcher will send a copy of participants' contributions to the project book.

In the first Zoom call, you will **discuss the project book with other YRs from your city**. In the second Zoom call, you are invited to **discuss the project book with other YRs from both cities**.

At the end of the final call, you can decide whether you wish to take part in a presentation of the project book and project findings with a group of teachers in early 2022.

## Where, when and with whom will the activities take place?

Research activities will be led by Catherine Walker outside of school/college hours. In most focus groups, you will be with other young researchers (YRs) in your city, and in two focus groups, you will be with YRs from both cities. You will have a chance to meet the other YRs in both cities in a video call before your first interview.

The interviews with your family will either take place over Zoom, or at your home if Government regulations about Covid-19 allow for this at the time of the interviews, and if you feel comfortable with this. **There is no obligation for you to agree to a researcher coming to your home.**

## **Will people know I have taken part in the research?**

If you do decide to take part, you can tell your friends, family, teachers or any others. For example, you might choose to write about taking part in the research in a school newsletter or report. Please send any copies of reports you write to the researchers before they are published.

The researcher will ask you how you wish to be identified in any publication from the research (for example, using a fake name or using your first name only). The researcher will also talk to you and your parent/s or guardian/s about how you wish to represent yourselves in the project book, and you will have the option of being named as an author of the project book.

## **How will my personal information be kept safe?**

### **What personal information are you collecting?**

If you do take part in the research, you will be sharing some personal information for the project, specifically:

- Your name
- Your ethnicity
- Your age
- Your gender

In addition, the researcher will ask for the following information in order to keep in contact with you:

- Your email address
- Your home address if the researcher visits your home for an interview

Audio or video recordings taken of interviews, and any photographs you might choose to share for your family's contribution to the book of stories are also personal information as they contain your voice and image.

### **Under what legal basis are you collecting this information?**

We are collecting and storing this personal information in accordance with UK data protection law which protect your rights. These state that we must have a legal basis (specific reason) for collecting your data. For this study, the specific reason is that it is "a public interest task" and "a process necessary for research purposes". If you would like to know more about your rights or find out the legal reason we collect and use your information, please read through the [Privacy Notice for Research](#).

### **What will happen to my personal information?**

The University of Manchester is the 'Data Controller' for the project, which means that under UK Data Protection Law, they are responsible for keeping your information safe. Data collected in Manchester will also be securely transferred to University of Melbourne for the duration of the project.

The researchers on the project have received training to keep your information safe and will do so as follows:

- For the focus groups you take part in, video recordings and audio recordings will be taken with your consent. The video recordings will be used to create a written record of what was said, then they will be deleted.
- For the interviews with parents/guardians, an audio recording will be taken and this will be sent to a professional transcriber (someone who listens to recordings and writes down everything that was said). They will keep your information confidential and will delete the recording when they finish their work. You and your family will receive a copy of the transcript of your interview with your parents/guardians.

- Your data be kept on the University of Manchester computer server for five years from the end of the project in February 2023, and then it will be safely destroyed. There will also be a copy of your data on the University of Melbourne computer server until the end of the project.
- Only Catherine Walker and one researcher working on the project in Melbourne (Ellen van Holstein, whose contact details are at the end of this sheet) will have access to the original recordings containing all the things you have said, and any photographs you share for the book of stories. The two researchers will send your information to one another using a secure (cloud-based) service with a password.
- Catherine will create versions of your interview transcripts that have your name and any other personal details removed to share with researchers who are advising on the research project. The advisors will access this information through a secure (cloud-based) service with a password.
- If you agree to be contacted for future research studies on your consent form, your contact details will be stored securely on University of Manchester computer server for five years from when the project ends. You can take part in the research without agreeing to this.
- If you agree on your consent form for the things you shared in the project to be sent to the UK Data Archive, your name and any other identifying details will first be removed before the data are sent to the UK Data Archive. You can take part in the research without agreeing to this.

### **Covid-19 and data protection**

Owing to current restrictions to face to face meetings, most or all of the activities for this research will take place using Zoom, and your personal data will be processed by Zoom, which is based in the USA. University of Manchester will ensure that data transfers between countries are compliant with UK Data Protection Law. The recordings will be removed from Zoom and stored on University of Manchester managed file storage at the first opportunity.

### **Do I have to take part in the project?**

It is completely up to you if you wish to take part in the study. If you decide not to take part you do not need to do anything further. Details about what to do if you decide to take part are at the end of the sheet.

### **What if I change my mind?**

You are free to withdraw from the project at any point without having to give a reason. This does not affect your data protection rights. If you decide to withdraw, it may not be possible to remove data you already shared, but you will not be identified in any project publication.

### **Do my parents or guardians need to agree to me taking part in this project?**

As you are over 16, you do not need a parent or guardian's consent for you to take part in the research. However, you will be interviewing at least one parent or guardian for the research and they will need to give their own permission to be interviewed, so it is important that you discuss this with a parent or guardian before making a decision.

### **How could taking part in the project benefit me and others?**

The project will help you to develop new skills, including interviewing and creating content for a project book. These are skills that could help you with your school projects, applying for jobs and university applications. Your contributions to the project may mean that a more diverse range of perspectives are included in how some students learn about climate change and how people around the world are responding to it.

### **Will I receive anything for taking part in the project?**

At the start of the project, each young researcher will receive a one-off £25 Currys-PC World voucher to enable you to buy mobile data so you can join in online research activities without using your own data. At the end of the project, young researchers will be given a £50 book voucher in recognition of the time you have given to the project.

Your family will also receive a copy of the project book when it is printed, and you will receive a certificate of participation in the project.

## Help and support

This research project is designed to help you and your family to recognise the valuable knowledge you have about climate change and environmental challenges. It is **not** designed to upset you by making you think about climate change. However, if you find that taking part in the research makes you anxious about climate change, you can contact the following organisations:

[Help - Eco-Anxiety](#) - A dedicated website by young people for young people containing information about eco-anxiety, advice and organisations that can help.

[Childline | Childline](#) - 08001111, free helpline in the UK for anyone under 19. You can confidentially call, email or chat online about anxiety.

## Complaints or questions

If you do decide to take part, the researchers will do all we can to make you feel comfortable. However, if at any point in the research you wish to make a complaint, please contact the lead researcher:

**Dr Catherine Walker, University of Manchester, Booth Street West, Manchester M15 6PB, UK**  
[catherine.walker-2@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:catherine.walker-2@manchester.ac.uk) / +44 (0)161 275 8907.

If you wish to make a formal complaint to someone outside of the research team then you can contact The Research Ethics Manager, University of Manchester using the following contact details:

**Research Ethics Manager, Research Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL** / [research.complaints@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:research.complaints@manchester.ac.uk) / +44 (0)161 306 8089.

If you wish to contact us about your data protection rights, please email [dataprotection@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@manchester.ac.uk) or write to **The Information Governance Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, M13 9PL, United Kingdom** and we will guide you through the process of exercising your rights.

## What do I do now?

If you think you would like to take part in the project, please first discuss this with the parent/guardian who you would like to interview for the research, then let Catherine know. Catherine will arrange a time to talk through any questions with you and a parent or guardian. Please reply within **one week** of receiving this information sheet.

## Researcher contact details

**Lead researcher (Manchester): Dr Catherine Walker, University of Manchester, Booth Street West, Manchester M15 6PB, UK** [catherine.walker-2@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:catherine.walker-2@manchester.ac.uk) / +44 (0)161 275 8907

**Research assistant (Melbourne): Ellen van Holstein, [ypac-project@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:ypac-project@unimelb.edu.au)**

**Please keep a copy of this information sheet for your reference.**