

Research project: Collaboration and Cultural Identity

How can the awareness of cultural identity enhance collaborative learning experiences in higher education?

Participant Information Sheet

About this study

This study is part of my research on the PgCert Academic Practice in Art, Design and Communication at UAL.

I am conducting an enquiry into the experiences and interactions of students while working collaboratively. I am interested in students' engagement when working together in a group. My main stakeholder groups are students in post graduate study however the interactive tool that will be created can also be used with BA students.

The research focus of my project is to co - create a supportive tool in the form of initially 10 collaborative playing cards for student's so they can share with their peers their cultural identities and preferred ways of working when collaborating. The cards will be used within academic support workshops with students as ice breakers.

On reflection while working in Academic Support I have discovered that students often find discussing their cultural identities and preferred ways of working can sometimes be a challenge within their groups, this in turn can cause discord. Our cultural identities play a significant role in our viewpoints, preferences, beliefs and how we work.

The main methodology will be mixed method using qualitative and quantitative: taking a responsive, interactive and evaluative approach. Combining feedback with a broader use of statistical data. This will consist of a questionnaire, interviews, focus groups and feedback with MA students and colleagues. Co – design will also be implemented including lived user experiences and collaboration as well as *ethnographic research immersing into the community to observe and understand students in their natural environment. Participant observation will also be used. Responses will be analysed thematically and chronologically.

What does it mean to take part?

If you take part you are consenting to taking part in a questionnaire and interactive exercises that will assist in the design and use of the collaborative cards. There will be three parts to my research, and all interventions will be integrated into your course workshops delivered by Gem Smith.

*Ethnographic – The study of people in their natural environments to gain a better understanding of their culture and behaviour. First hand experiences.

The **three stages** will be as follows:

1. Initially an **information sheet, a short questionnaire and a participant consent form to be given** for students to complete on the 4th of November. This will help me to collate some ideas as to what students would like to see implemented into the cards, this will assist with the co – design of the collaborative cards.
2. Testing of **prototype cards with students as a short ice breaker** for the workshop on the 18th of November 2025 and receive verbal feedback, so I can complete any modifications.
3. Fully implement the **completed cards during the collaborative workshop** booked for the 21st of January 2026 and receive verbal/written feedback.

I will audio record and/or transcribe the focus group and any feedback. The data will be used as the basis for academic analysis.

If you choose to take part, **you will be free to withdraw your participation at any point.** You will not be obliged to give any reason for deciding not to take part.

Will my participation be kept confidential?

Your anonymity is very important. The information about you will be confidential to me, as the researcher. You will not be identified individually anywhere in the research. If I quote anything you have said in an interview, it will be anonymous. An example might be: 'Student A said, 'The project is...''

What will happen to the results of the research project?

Analysis from the questionnaire, feedback and any focus groups - including quotations from you – will contribute to an academic dissertation. Your words may also be used in academic reports, papers, articles or conference presentations, this will all be anonymous. These may appear online.

Thank you for your contribution and participation in this study. This is really appreciated.

Contact for further information:

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