

Participant Information Sheet for N-TUTORR Students as Partners Fellowship Study

Study title: *Investigating staff and student perceptions of process, partnership and impact of the N-TUTORR Students as Partners in Innovation and Change fellowships*

What is this document?

This document is what is known as a 'Participant Information Sheet'. You are being asked to read it because we are inviting you to take part in the above-named research study. Before you decide whether you wish to take part in this study, you should read this information sheet carefully, and if you wish, discuss it with your family and friends. This document is to help you to make an informed decision whether to take part in this study; you should take time to make sure that you understand what your participation would involve.

What is this study about?

This study aims to investigate student and staff perceptions of their participation in the N-TUTORR Students as Partners in Innovation and Change fellowships. Specifically, we are interested in finding out what you, the student and staff partners, thought about the partnership process within the fellowship projects, how you found the overall experience, and how it may have affected you.

Why am I being asked to take part?

You are being asked to take part because you were a student/staff partner involved in one of the N-TUTORR Students as Partners in Innovation and Change fellowships.

I already completed an Impact Form with my Fellowship group. Is that related to this?

No. The Impact Form that leads are being asked to submit on behalf of their groups is to help us write a report to our funders. This is a separate research study.

Who is carrying out this study?

This research study is being undertaken by the N-TUTORR Stream 1 research team comprising Dr Carina Ginty (Stream 1 co-lead, ATU), Dr Moira Maguire (Stream 1 co-lead, DkIT), Dr Sarah Carroll (Data analyst, ATU), and Olya Antropova (Research Assistant, ATU).

Why is this study being done?

The 'Students as Partners in Innovation and Change fellowships' is a unique initiative as few student-staff partnerships are carried out at such a large scale. By learning more about your experiences of the fellowships, we will be able to improve similar future initiatives for both staff and students.

What are the benefits?

There will be no direct benefits to you personally, however we hope to use the study findings to enhance future similar initiatives. We also plan to share the study findings via research article(s), reports, conferences etc. so this will also benefit other stakeholders interested in this field.

Is my participation in this study mandatory?

No. Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary; you are under no obligation to take part. Your decision will not affect your participation in the Students as Partners fellowships, or indeed any other N-TUTORR activities. There will be no impact on your grades or any other aspect of your education. You can also withdraw your consent to participate up until June 1st by contacting Sarah at sarah.carroll@atu.ie.

What would my participation in the study involve?

If you decide to consent towards participating in this study, you would be involved in 2 ways:

1. **Fellowship Experience Questionnaire** (15-20 minutes): You would be asked to complete an online questionnaire via MS Forms. The questionnaire would ask you questions related to your involvement in the fellowship, the partnership process, how the fellowship affected. You will also be asked if you are willing to take part in an interview.
2. **Interview** (30-45 minutes): You may be selected to take part in an online interview via MS Teams with a member of the research team (Sarah or Olya) to discuss the process of your partnership in more detail. Interview participants will be selected according to their questionnaire responses: this will allow us to investigate a variety of responses. The interview would be organised for a date and time of your choosing between May and June. The interview will be audio-recorded and transcribed using MS Teams.

Will the data collection be anonymous? Will the research team know which answers are mine?

- The **Fellowship Experience Questionnaire** will be anonymous: it will not ask you for your name or fellowship title.
- However, if you consent to do a **follow-up interview**, your name, email address and institution will be collected at the end of the questionnaire. In this case the questionnaire will not be anonymous: the research team will know which responses are yours. This will allow us to choose interview participants and match up the questionnaire responses and interview transcripts to the same person. The **Interview** will not be anonymous: the research team will know who you are.

Will my information be treated confidentially?

Yes. Only the N-TUTORR Stream 1 research team will have access to your data. It will be digitally stored in a secure ATU SharePoint file, according to ATU Data Protection guidelines.

Where will the information end up?

We hope to share the findings of the research study through regular research dissemination channels i.e. at conferences via paper presentations or posters, seminars, research articles etc.

Will other people be able to tell which answers are mine?

No. Once we have collected the data we will *anonymise* it: this means that we will remove any identifying information (e.g. your name, email address, host institution) from your questionnaires and interview transcripts. Your questionnaire responses will be associated with a unique ID, and

your interview transcripts will be under a *pseudonym* (a fake name). Most questionnaire responses and interview transcripts will be grouped and analysed together. We are not interested in comparing institutions, fellowship projects or project themes. There may be instances where we use a single questionnaire or interview response to illustrate a particular point. In these instances, we will take care not to use excerpts that may identify you or your fellowship project.

Where can I get further information about this study?

If you need further information now or at any time in the future, please contact N-TUTORR Stream 1 data analyst (sarah.carroll@atu.ie) or Stream 1 co-leads Carina Ginty: carina.ginty@atu.ie or Moira Maguire: moira.maguire@dkit.ie.

If you wish to contact someone based at your institution, you can contact the N-TUTORR institutional lead at your institution. Asides from Carina Ginty (ATU), the N-TUTORR institutional leads do not have any input on the research design or analysis. They do not have access to the collected data. Institutional leads: DKIT (Ronan Bree, ronan.bree@dkit.ie), IADT (Bernadette Meagher, bernadette.meagher@iadt.ie), MTU (Louise Nagle, louise.nagle@mtu.ie), TU Dublin (Mike Ahern, mike.ahern@tudublin.ie), TUS (Trevor Prendergast, trevor.prendergast@tus.ie), SETU (Ken McCarthy, ken.mccarthy@setu.ie).

This study has received approval from the Research Ethics Committees from the following institutions: ATU, DKIT, IADT, TU Dublin¹ and TUS. We are only recruiting participants from these institutions at this time. Ethical applications are under review at MTU, and SETU. Check the information in the [consent form](#) for updates on this situation. If at any point of your participation you have ethical concerns about this study, you may contact the respective Chair of the Research Ethics Committee at your institution. Be assured that your concerns will be dealt with in a sensitive matter.

1. The approval of the ATU Research Ethics Committee, the University of the Principal Investigator of the research, has been recognised by TU Dublin and the study is approved to proceed at TU Dublin

I have been asked to participate in another study about this fellowship. Is that related to this?

No. Staff members of fellowship projects may be carrying out their own research in relation to the project. That would be separate to this research study, which is looking at the N-TUTORR Students as Partners projects on a national level. Any staff members carrying out additional research studies relating to the fellowship projects must consult the guidelines set out by their institution's research ethics committee and gain ethical approval if necessary.

Okay, I have made my decision. What do I do now?

Let us know your decision by completing the consent form via MS Forms here: <https://forms.office.com/e/NS1aQ8qBJZ>

