

Academically/ Intellectually Gifted University students: A qualitative study of why they choose to use or hide gifted abilities?

**Participating in this study will enable you to tell your story of your experiences as a gifted person. These findings of this research may help universities better understand the needs of and provide opportunities to facilitate the development of their gifted students.**

Information for participants

My name is Belinda Howarth. I am conducting this research as my Honours project for the degree of Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) in the school of Psychological and Clinical Sciences at Charles Darwin University. My supervisors are Professor Douglas Paton and Dr Petra Buergelt.

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| Research Project | Gifted University students: A qualitative study of why they choose to use or hide gifted abilities. |
| Eligible participants | You must be 18 years or over. You must be either a current or recent student (within the last 3 years) at an onshore Australian university. You or your family must have been a member of a gifted association or the gifted families yahoo group at some time. |
| Aim of the research | The knowledge gained from the study will assist better understanding of the social, emotional and education needs of gifted students at university. Universities that can effectively provide social, emotional and educational options and/or inclusions in their studies are more likely to retain their gifted students. |
| What would be expected of you | Your involvement in this study is voluntary and you have the option to withdraw whenever you wish. I would like to allow about an hour or more for the interview to get your story. The interview can be conducted in person or over the telephone (at my expense). The interview can be stopped and recommenced at another mutually suitable time if need be. The interviews will be recorded with your permission. |
| Benefits of the study | Although there may be no benefit to you directly this study may provide theoretical and practical knowledge about how the relationship between gifted university students and the diverse social contexts in which they interact with others in everyday life and in educational settings influences whether and to what extent giftedness is facilitated or constrained. These results may inform educational and personal services for gifted students at university. |
| Risks | There are unlikely to be any risks to participants. There are no right or wrong answers. If for any reason issues arise during the interviews that you are concerned about you have the option of withdrawing or completing the interview. It is unlikely that this research will raise any personal or upsetting issues, but if this occurs you could seek counselling or support which is available through Lifeline on 13 11 44 in Australia or your local counselling service. |
| Confidentiality | All information and data collected for this study are confidential. They will be stored in a secure office and accessed only by myself and my supervisors. No identifying information will be included in the report or transcripts.All recordings and transcripts will be named using pseudonyms the participants choose. |
| Storage and confirmation of information | All electronic data will be kept on a password- protected hard drive accessible only to my supervisors and myself. All data will be stored for five years in accordance with CDU’s storage requirements. Participants will be provided with a copy of the transcribed interview where they can add or change anything they wish prior to analysis. Participants will be sent a copy of the final paper with the study outcomes via individual emails from my university email address. The outcomes of the study will also be sent to the participating associations for distribution among their members. |
| Ethical approval | This study has approval by the Human Research Ethics Committee of Charles Darwin University. |
| Persons to contact | If you require further clarifications or have questions about this project please contact this researcher at [s289339@students.cdu.edu.au](mailto:s289339@students.cdu.edu.au)  My main supervisor is Professor Douglas Paton and can be contacted at [Douglas.paton@cdu.edu.au](mailto:Douglas.paton@cdu.edu.au)  If you have concerns about this study at any time, please contact the Executive Officer of the CDU Research Ethics Committee on the toll free number, 1800 466 215 or by e-mail, [ethics@cdu.edu.au](mailto:ethics@cdu.edu.au)  The executive officer will be able to notify the appropriate person with the University about your concerns. |

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet. If you wish to proceed with the study please email me at [s289339@students.cdu.edu.au](mailto:s289339@students.cdu.edu.au) to arrange a suitable time, place or phone number.

Kind Regards,

Belinda Howarth