

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

12 April 2022

Overview

Alana MacLeod, MSc Sustainable Rural Development student and Curriculum Development Employer Engagement Office at UHI, invites you to take part in an important piece of research exploring the perceived value of postgraduate study in the Highlands and Islands. Research project title:

Postgraduate Learning: Perspectives from the Scottish Highlands. An exploration of the perceived value of postgraduate study, in the context of underpinning rural development.

It's widely acknowledged that skills and education are critical in economic growth, and there are some clear ambitions from central bodies in accelerating growth and opportunity in rural areas. The Highland labour market faces some unique challenges, though – smaller businesses, higher underemployment, out-migration, and a wider range and reliance on lower paying sectors.

This project aims to investigate postgraduate study trends and its perceived value in the context of the Highlands & Islands labour market. As part of the project, the researcher will gather feedback from undergraduate business students in their final year of study, and their prospective regional employers, to establish whether regional educational provision is adequate in serving the continued learning and upskilling needs of its individuals and businesses.

What's involved?

There will be two phases to this research:

1. A short, online survey
2. Semi-structured interviews (not mandatory, you will be asked whether you want to continue involvement)

In phase 1, during survey, the researcher will ask whether you are willing to take part in the semi-structured interview process as part of phase 2. All information gathered in both phases will be anonymised.

You can opt out at any point during the survey or interview process, and any sensitive topics will be handled with discretion. All information gathered will be stored in line with GDPR requirements.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Taking part in this small research project could help to inform changes in how postgraduate study and/or other upskilling opportunities are offered to individuals and businesses across the Highlands and Islands.

The project will provide invaluable insight into motivations, ambitions, and barriers regarding postgraduate study, and its suitability for those who study business, and those who want to progress into a management or professional role.

Participants will be offered information on the project's findings upon its conclusion in Summer 2022.

Data protection

The legal reason for using the data you have provided is that is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller. That being the delivery of a course of study or research undertaken at, or by, the university or its students.

This study will not be collecting special category data.

- Data controller: Alana MacLeod: 18023446@uhi.ac.uk or alana.macleod@uhi.ac.uk
- For any data protection enquiries please contact UHI's Data Protection Officer: dataprotectionofficer@uhi.ac.uk
- For any queries about the research please contact the project supervisor: michael.smith@uhi.ac.uk

Your data will or may be shared with the following recipients or categories of recipients: UHI, college at which the applicant is registered, relevant UHI exam board comprising of UHI and external representatives. The data will not be sent out with the EU.

Data retention

This retention period is in respect of the research data as collected. Anonymized data will be retained for 5 years. Please note the retention period does not apply to any materials published because of this project.

The following are your rights in respect of this processing:

- The right to access your personal data
- The right to rectification if the personal data we hold about you is incorrect
- The right to restrict processing of your personal data
- The right to request erasure (deletion) of your personal data
- The right to data portability

You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office about our handling of your data.