
UCD Athena SWAN Student Focus Group Consent Form

You are being asked to participate in this Athena SWAN student focus group based on your experience in University College Dublin.

In order to participate in the UCD Athena SWAN student focus group, I am aware that I will be required to participate in a focus group on gender equality and inclusion in University College Dublin. (please tick the box with an X)

I am aware that the focus group aims to collect information on the personal opinions of participants' experience and perceptions of gender equality and inclusion. Feedback will be anonymised, and it is the content as opposed to the originator of the content which is important for the feedback. (please tick the box with an X)

I understand that I will not identify anyone when sharing experiences either by naming them or inferring their identity through disclosing their role. (please tick the box with an X)

I understand that the purpose of these focus groups are not to disclose personal experiences but rather my views on university policy and practice which may be informed by my personal experiences. I am aware I can disclose and seek support through the appropriate support mechanisms at UCD. (please tick the box with an X)

I understand that the purpose of the research is to identify themes and patterns and that the purpose of the research is not to investigate issues nor receive disclosures. (please tick the box with an X)

I am aware that focus groups are not recorded. Notes will be taken on the discussion by the EDI Unit who is managing the development of the Athena SWAN application as regards emerging themes and held by the EDI Unit. (please tick the box with an X)

I understand that all personal information will be kept strictly confidential. All data collected will be anonymous. (please tick the box with an X)

I understand all the potential risks and benefits associated with my participation in this study. (please tick the box with an X)

I understand there are no consequences if I decide not to participate, and I understand can refuse to participate if I wish. (please tick the box with an X)

I understand that I am not required to answer any questions that make me feel uncomfortable answering and that I can leave the focus group at any time **but that any feedback provided up that point will be included in the overall feedback/themes. (please tick the box with an X)**

I understand I will get no benefit right away from taking part in this focus group. However, my participation will help UCD take steps to improve gender equality and inclusion in the University. **(please tick the box with an X)**

I agree that the data collected from the focus group can be used as part of this Athena SWAN institutional accreditation process under the terms set out above. **(please tick the box with an X)**

I understand that by signing this consent form I am voluntarily agreeing to take part in this student consultation on gender equality and inclusion to support the development of gender equality initiatives in University College Dublin. **(please tick the box with an X)**

I have read the information sheet attached to this consent form and I have had time to consider whether to take part in this focus group. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw from the research at any time. **(please tick the box with an X)**

I have completed the consent form and consent to participating in this focus group and giving permission to the researcher for the use of the data collected from me (participant). (please tick the box with an X)

To participate in this focus group, you must be over 18.

I am over 18

I hereby give permission to the researcher for the use of the data collected from me (participant):

Name of Participant (in block letters): _____

Signature*: _____

Date: __/__/____

1) Tick the relevant boxes and type your name above and the date.

2) When returning this consent form by email to the focus group organiser, copy and paste the following statement in your email to confirm your consent to the focus group organiser: **“I have completed the consent form and consent to participating in this focus group and giving permission to the researcher for the use of the data collected from me (participant).”**

