



[www.enhancingfieldwork.org.uk](http://www.enhancingfieldwork.org.uk)

## Research study into the future of fieldwork in Higher Education

### Information sheet for survey participants – HE Practitioners

27 July 2021

#### Background

We are a staff and student team of researchers who lead the [Enhancing Fieldwork Learning](http://www.enhancingfieldwork.org.uk) pedagogic research project. The EFL project was originally undertaken as part of the National Teaching Fellowship Scheme managed by the Higher Education Academy between 2010 and 2013 and has since run with support from the British Ecological Society and other funders.

#### Why are we doing this study?

We are interested in exploring the future of fieldwork teaching and learning in Higher Education. Therefore, we are conducting a research study into the changes to fieldwork teaching in HE that may happen over the next few years.

#### What is the purpose of the study?

There have been considerable impacts on our society and education system recently due to a range of factors. Looking ahead as our Higher Education system continues to adapt;

- What can fieldwork experiences contribute towards the education of our undergraduates?
- How can we maximise the benefits provided by this teaching and learning approach?
- What is the optimal way to deliver the best fieldwork experience for all students?

#### Who would we like to participate in the study?

We would like to gather the thoughts of two key groups:

1. Current undergraduates – via an online survey
2. HE practitioners – via conversations at the EFL Showcase in Sept 2021

#### How can you be involved?

Practitioners – to take part we will be running breakout discussions sessions at the Enhancing Fieldwork Learning Showcase event in September 2021. We will chair the discussion and lead with several questions about plans for delivering HE fieldwork in the future and how technology can be used to ensure fieldwork is accessible and inclusive. We will also questions about skills development, funding and the sustainability of fieldtrips.

**Do I have to take part?**

You are under no obligation to participate, and you do not need to attend the breakout sessions even if you are a delegate at the Showcase event.

**Confidentiality, storage and disposal of information**

If you participate, the session will be recorded for data extraction, however your answers will remain confidential, and we will ensure that only anonymous results are reported/published. Participation is voluntary and you have the right to withdraw your data until the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (please send an email to [a.l.mauchline@reading.ac.uk](mailto:a.l.mauchline@reading.ac.uk)). After this point the data will be analysed and prepared for publication. The data will be stored on password-protected University computer file storage and the raw data and video recordings will be deleted once the paper is published.

**What will the results of the study be used for?**

The results of the study will be combined with the responses from the staff survey and written up for publication in a pedagogic research journal.

**Consent Statement**

By attending the breakout session, you acknowledge that you understand the terms of participation and that you consent to these terms.

**Who has reviewed the study?**

This project has been reviewed by the University of Reading Research Ethics Committee and has been given a favourable opinion for conduct.

**Contact details**

For further details please contact Alice Mauchline [a.l.mauchline@reading.ac.uk](mailto:a.l.mauchline@reading.ac.uk)

**Thank you for your help.**

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