

RESEARCH PROJECT: Where are they now? Exploring the employment outcomes of Criminology graduates post the Graduate Destination Survey.

Dear Participant,

My name is Natalie Gately and I am the Course Coordinator of undergraduate Criminology courses at Edith Cowan University. I am conducting a research project with Nikki Rajakaruna (nee. Isaacson) called 'Where Are They Now?' to track the employment destinations of our Criminology students. We are contacting all students who graduated over a five-year period (between December 1 2011 and December 30 2016) and asking them about their experiences of finding employment after completing the degree (e.g. where they work, the things that helped in finding employment, the things that made it harder etc.). This information is really important for us to know in promoting and designing our course, and where we can, implementing strategies which will assist our students find employment after they graduate from our course.

You graduated within this five-year period and so we are contacting you to determine whether you would be keen to participate in the project. Participation involves the completion of an online survey which will take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete. Although your name will be linked to your data at the time of data collection, it will be de-identified as soon as it is transcribed/entered into SPSS (we only need to know your name so we don't follow up anyone who has already completed the survey).

If you agree to give your consent there are a few things we'd like you to know.

- Participation in this research is completely voluntary and you are free to withdraw your consent at any time (whilst data is identifiable). If you wish to withdraw your consent you are able to contact either a member of the research team or an independent staff member in the Ethics office (all contact details are provided below).
- All identities and information collected will be kept strictly confidential.
- If you choose not to participate or if decide to withdraw your consent at a later stage please know that there will be no impact on your relationship with the lecturers/tutors or with Edith Cowan University.
- It is possible that you may feel uncomfortable disclosing your true thoughts and feelings about your experiences at Edith Cowan University. Please know that we value your feedback, irrespective of whether it is positive or negative. It is anticipated that the use of an online survey will negate any discomfort.

- Only members of the research team will have access to the data. This includes Natalie, Nikki and an independent research assistant who will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement.
- De-identified data will be stored on a password protected hard-drive which will be stored in a locked filing cabinet on ECU premises. Data will be maintained for a period of 7 years, in accordance with the Western Australian University Sector Disposal Authority (WAUSDA). Data will be electronically shredded after this period.
- If you choose to participate you are able to request a copy of the research outcomes by contacting one of the lead researchers (details are provided below).
- In the event that this research is published, no identifiable personal information will be released.

This study has received approval from the Edith Cowan University Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have any questions regarding the research please contact one of us (details are below). If you have any concerns and wish to speak to an independent person please contact the University Research Ethics Officer on (08) 6304 2170 or Email: research.ethics@ecu.edu.au.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter. Your assistance in this research is greatly appreciated.

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