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APPENDIX A

Ethical Approval Letter from the Faculty of Humanities



Faculty of Humanities

Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe
Lefapha la Bomotho



26 July 2022

Dear Miss CCH Venter

Project Title: Health literacy amongst an undergraduate university student population: A comparative study
Researcher: Miss CCH Venter
Supervisor(s): Miss SN Mostert
Department: Psychology
Reference number: 16144351 (HUM014/1121)
Degree: Masters

I have pleasure in informing you that the above application was **approved** by the Research Ethics Committee on 26 July 2022. Please note that before research can commence all other approvals must have been received.

Please note that this approval is based on the assumption that the research will be carried out along the lines laid out in the proposal. Should the actual research depart significantly from the proposed research, it will be necessary to apply for a new research approval and ethical clearance.

We wish you success with the project.

Sincerely,

Prof Karen Harris
Chair: Research Ethics Committee
Faculty of Humanities
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
e-mail: tracey.andrew@up.ac.za

Research Ethics Committee Members: Prof KL Harris (Chair); Mr A Bizos; Dr A-M de Beer; Dr A dos Santos; Dr P Gutura; Ms KT Govinder Andrew; Dr E Johnson; Dr D Krige; Prof D Maree; Mr A Mohamed; Dr I Noomé; Dr J Okeke; Dr C Puttergill; Prof D Reyburn; Prof M Soer; Prof E Taljard; Ms D Mokalapa

Room 7-27, Humanities Building, University of Pretoria, Private Bag X20, Hatfield 0028, South Africa
Tel +27 (0)12 420 4853 | Fax +27 (0)12 420 4501 | Email pghumanities@up.ac.za | www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-humanities

APPENDIX B

Ethical Approval Letter from the Faculty of Health Sciences



Faculty of Health Sciences

Institution: The Research Ethics Committee, Faculty Health Sciences, University of Pretoria complies with ICH-GCP guidelines and has US Federal wide Assurance.

- FWA 00002567, Approved dd 18 March 2022 and Expires 18 March 2027.
- IORG #: IORG0001762 OMB No. 0990-0278 Approved for use through August 31, 2023.

Faculty of Health Sciences **Research Ethics Committee**

12 July 2022

Endorsement Notice

Dear Miss CCH Venter

Ethics Reference No: HUM014/1121

Title: Health literacy amongst an undergraduate university student population: A comparative study

The **New Application** as supported by documents received between 2022-04-14 and 2022-06-29 for your research, was approved by the Faculty of Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee on 2022-06-29 as resolved by its quorate meeting.

Please note the following about your ethics approval:

- Ethics Approval is valid for 1 year and needs to be renewed annually by 2023-07-12.
- Please remember to use your protocol number (HUM014/1121) on any documents or correspondence with the Research Ethics Committee regarding your research.
- Please note that the Research Ethics Committee may ask further questions, seek additional information, require further modification, monitor the conduct of your research, or suspend or withdraw ethics approval.

Ethics approval is subject to the following:

- The ethics approval is conditional on the research being conducted as stipulated by the details of all documents submitted to the Committee. In the event that a further need arises to change who the investigators are, the methods or any other aspect, such changes must be submitted as an Amendment for approval by the Committee.

We wish you the best with your research.

Yours sincerely



On behalf of the FHS REC, Professor Werdie (CW) Van Staden

MBChB, MMed(Psych), MD, FCPsych(SA), FTCL, UPLM

Chairperson: Faculty of Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee

The Faculty of Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee complies with the SA National Act 61 of 2003 as it pertains to health research and the United States Code of Federal Regulations Title 45 and 46. This committee abides by the ethical norms and principles for research, established by the Declaration of Helsinki, the South African Medical Research Council Guidelines as well as the Guidelines for Ethical Research: Principles Structures and Processes, Second Edition 2015 (Department of Health).

Research Ethics Committee
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Fakulteit Gesondheidswetenskappe
Lefapha la Disaense tša Maphelo

APPENDIX C

Ethical Approval Letter from the Survey Coordinating Committee



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Office of the Registrar

2022-06-22

Ms C Venter
Department of Psychology
Faculty of Humanities
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Email: u16144351@tuks.co.za

Dear Ms Venter

APPROVAL OF RESEARCH STUDY

The UP Survey Coordinating Committee has granted approval for the research study titled "Health literacy amongst an undergraduate university student population: A comparative study".

The proposed research study has to strictly adhere to the associated study protocol, as well as the UP Survey Policy and the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Humanities instructions.

Please liaise with the Market Research Office in the Department of Institutional Planning (carlien.nell@up.ac.za) to officially register the study and to finalise the survey regulations, procedures and the fieldwork dates. In order to register the study, the Market Research Office has to receive the formal ethical approval letter from the Faculty of Humanities.

A final electronic copy of the research outcomes must be submitted to the Survey Coordinating Committee as soon as possible after the completion of the study.

Kind regards

Prof CMA Nicholson
REGISTRAR
CHAIRPERSON: SURVEY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Rectorate, Room 4-23, 4th floor, Administration Building, Hatfield Campus
University of Pretoria, Private Bag X20
Hatfield 0028, South Africa
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Email: regis@up.ac.za
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Kantoor van die Registrateur
Ofisi ya Mmušakarolo

APPENDIX D
Invitation to Participate in the Study



ETHICAL APPROVAL NUMBER: HUM014/1121

INVITE TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH STUDY:
Health literacy amongst an undergraduate university student population: A comparative study.

My name is Cornelia C.H. Venter and I am currently working towards completing and obtaining a MA (Psychology) degree at the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Humanities.

I would hereby like to invite undergraduate students from the Faculty of Humanities (specifically in the Department of Psychology) and the Faculty of Health Sciences, to participate in this research study.

The primary aim of this research study is to explore and compare the health literacy levels of undergraduate students across various disciplines.

Prospective participants need to be 18 to 24 years old, a registered undergraduate student at one of the aforementioned faculties at the University of Pretoria, proficient in English; and computer literate. Participation on this research study entails compulsory completion of two (2) online Questionnaires: a Demographic Questionnaire and the Health Literacy Questionnaire (HLQ). It will take approximately 20 minutes to complete these two (2) aforementioned questionnaires.

Please note: Participating in this research study is voluntary and consent will be obtained from each participant. Every participant will have the right to withdraw from this research study at any given point without being penalized or suffering any consequences. Prospective participants who are willing to participate, and who comply with the inclusion criteria will be expected to fill in an informed consent form prior to data collection.

If you are willing to participate in this research study, please scan the QR CODE or click on the following link for more information relating to this research study:
https://pretoria.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5gNKalxXjyJ2ynY
Password for access: HLQ-Venter2022



APPENDIX E
Participation Information Sheet



Participation Information Sheet

My name is **Cornelia C.H. Venter** and I am currently working towards completing and obtaining a MA (Psychology) degree at the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Humanities. I would like to formally invite you to participate in my research study. However, before you decide whether you would like to participate in this study (or not), it is of great importance that I ensure that you are aware of all the important information relating to this specific research study. I would also like to kindly ask you to take some time to carefully study this information sheet to familiarise yourself with all the important information relating to this research study that has been summarized in this document. I would also like to extend an invitation to you (the prospective participant) to discuss any concerns, etc that you might have pertaining to this specific research study, with me, via email: u16144351@tuks.co.za / carliaventer@gmail.com.

Purpose of the study:

Individuals often demonstrate insufficient health-related knowledge due to low levels of health literacy (Buja et al., 2020; Rueda-Medina et al., 2020). Health literacy research among undergraduate students is limited (Joseph, et al., 2016; Rababah et al., 2019). My research study intends to determine and compare the health literacy levels of undergraduate students across various disciplines.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria:

The following will serve as the inclusion criteria for this research study:

- 18 to 24 years old;
- a registered undergraduate student in the Faculty of Health Sciences or the Faculty of Humanities (specifically from the Department of Psychology) at the University of Pretoria;
- proficient in English (this will be highlighted in the study invite); and
- students should be computer literate to enable the completion of the virtual questionnaires.

The following will serve as the exclusion criteria for this research study:

- Younger than 18 years and older than 24 years; and
- undergraduate students registered in Faculties other than those detailed above.

Participation in this study:

Participation in this research study, includes the following:

- compulsory completion of an Informed Consent Form relating to this study;
- compulsory completion of one (1) online Demographic Questionnaire;
- compulsory completion of one (1) online assessment measure, the Health Literacy Questionnaire (HLQ).

(All data will be collected using Qualtrics. All metadata stored on Qualtrics will be removed from the electronic system once the study is completed.)

***Please note:** The time required to complete the Informed Consent Form and the two (2) required questionnaires will be approximately 20 minutes.*

Withdrawal:

Participation in this research study is done on a purely voluntary basis and you are under no obligation to participate or even consent to participation. However, should you decide to participate in this research study, you will be required to complete the form at the end of this document, as well as the accompanying Informed Consent Form. Should you decide to decline this invitation to participate in this research study, you will **not** be penalized or suffer any negative consequences. Furthermore, should you at any point during the course of participation in this research study, decide to withdraw your involvement in this research study, you are welcome to do so, without suffering any repercussions.

Confidentiality of data:

Participants will be required to complete a Demographic Questionnaire. However, the demographic data in this research study will **only** be collected to provide a description of the study sample and to ascertain the registration faculty of the students. Confidentiality will be ensured by assigning specific number codes to each participant's personal information. These codes will only be known to the researcher and supervisor and will be used in all research notes and documents. Findings from this data will be disseminated through conferences and publications. Reporting of findings will be anonymous, only the researcher and supervisor of this study will have access to the information. All information obtained from participants will be kept confidential, however, the researcher is legally obligated to report incidents such as abuse and suicide risks.

Potential benefits of participation:

There will be no direct benefits to you for your participation in this study. The indirect benefits will be the awareness that your participation in this research study contributed to the development of an understanding of the health needs of young adults to be able to establish suitable health promotion interventions throughout tertiary institutions in South Africa.

Anticipated risk of participation:

The researcher could not identify any foreseeable risks for participation in this research study. However, should a participant experience any form of difficulty or uneasiness after their participation in this research study, they will be referred to the University of Pretoria's Student Counselling Unit (SCU) for counseling or the South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG).

University of Pretoria's Student Counselling Unit (SCU):

The SCU offers a variety of mental health products and services to students. The UP careline serves as the SCU's crisis support line after hours and during weekends when their offices are closed. Do not send an email to the SCU if you require immediate assistance - rather phone the careline where counselors are available to assist you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

 **0800 747 747** or if you want someone to call you back, send an **SMS to 31393**.

 **studentcounselling@up.ac.za**

South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG):

The South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) is Africa's largest mental health support and advocacy group and is involved in counseling, outreach, and capacity-building work throughout South Africa.

 **011 234 4837 / 0800 567 567 / 0800 456 789**

 **zane@sadag.org**

Discomfort as a result of participation:

Should you have the need for further discussions after the online data collection process, an opportunity will be arranged for you.

The one-to-one discussion and the provision of counseling services, as well as any other necessary measures, will be implemented to ensure that the participants' well-being is at the forefront of this research study.

Protection and security of data:

Electronic information will be stored for a period of 15 years. Future use of the stored data will be subject to further Research Ethics Review and approval if applicable. The data will be stored virtually on the research data management platform at the University of Pretoria. A project has been created to store the data for a period of 15 years and may be used for future research purposes.

Remuneration for participation:

No one will be paid to participate in this research study. Participation is purely on a voluntary basis. Participation in this study is done via various online platforms, therefore you can choose when (time) and where (place) you wish to complete the required Informed Consent Form and the two (2) online assessment tools. The participants are not required to meet with the researcher during any stage of the research process unless additional assistance is required by the participant. Therefore, the participant will not have to incur any expenses to be able to participate in this study.

Findings/results:

Once the research has been concluded, the findings may be shared with participants within six (6) months.

If you have questions about this study or you have experienced adverse effects as a result of participating in this study, you may contact the researcher and/or supervisor whose contact information is provided below. If you have questions regarding your rights as a research participant, or if problems arise that you do not feel you can discuss with the researcher and/or supervisor, please contact the **Research Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Humanities, University of Pretoria**, via email: **psychology.rescom@up.ac.za**.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet and thank you, in advance, for participating in this study.

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Website: www.up.ac.za/psychology

Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe
Departement Sielkunde
Lefapha la Bomotheo
Kgoro ya Saekolotši

Kindly tick the box next to the applicable statement..

- I have read and fully understand all the information pertaining to this research study, that is summarized in this information sheet.
- I have read and do not fully understand all the information pertaining to this research study, that is summarized in this information sheet.

→

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Would you like to participate in this research study?

- Yes
- No.



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APPENDIX F
Informed Consent Form

I, _____ **(participant name)**, confirm that the person asking my consent to take part in this research has told me about the nature, procedure, potential benefits and anticipated inconvenience of participation.

Please complete the following table:

I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time, without giving any reason, and without any consequences or penalties.

Agree

Disagree

Not Applicable

→

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I, _____ **(participant name)**, confirm that the person asking my consent to take part in this research has told me about the nature, procedure, potential benefits and anticipated inconvenience of participation.

Please complete the following table:

<	I understand that information collected during the study will not be linked to my identity and I give permission to the researchers of this study to access the information.	>
---	--	---

Agree

Disagree

Not Applicable

→

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I, _____ (**participant name**), confirm that the person asking my consent to take part in this research has told me about the nature, procedure, potential benefits and anticipated inconvenience of participation.

Please complete the following table:

<	I understand that this study has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance from Research Ethics Committee Faculty of Humanities of the University of Pretoria.	>
---	--	---

Agree

Disagree

Not Applicable

→

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I, _____ **(participant name)**, confirm that the person asking my consent to take part in this research has told me about the nature, procedure, potential benefits and anticipated inconvenience of participation.

Please complete the following table:

<	I understand who will have access to personal information and how the information will be stored with a clear understanding that I will not be linked to the information in any way.	>
---	--	---

Agree

Disagree

Not Applicable

→

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I, _____ **(participant name)**, confirm that the person asking my consent to take part in this research has told me about the nature, procedure, potential benefits and anticipated inconvenience of participation.

Please complete the following table:

<	I understand how this study will be written up and published.	>
---	---	---

Agree

Disagree

Not Applicable

→

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I, _____ **(participant name)**, confirm that the person asking my consent to take part in this research has told me about the nature, procedure, potential benefits and anticipated inconvenience of participation.

Please complete the following table:

<	I understand how to raise a concern or make a complaint.	>
---	--	---

Agree

Disagree

Not Applicable

→

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I, _____ **(participant name)**, confirm that the person asking my consent to take part in this research has told me about the nature, procedure, potential benefits and anticipated inconvenience of participation.

Please complete the following table:

<	I have sufficient opportunity to ask questions and I agree to take part in the above study.	>
---	---	---

Agree

Disagree

Not Applicable

→

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Please enter your name and surname:

Please enter today's date:

Please sign here:

×

SIGN HERE

clear

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