

Laura Falzon : Participant information sheet - Interview

25/09/2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Laura Falzon and I am a student at the University of Malta, presently reading for a Master of Arts in Sociology. I am conducting a research study for my thesis titled 'Emergency contraception in Malta: understanding attitudes, perceptions and practices' under the supervision of Dr Kay Polidano. Please find below further details about the study should you decide to take part.

My study seeks to explore what people from the general public and those working in the health sector know about the EC, what attitudes they have towards it, and practices when it comes to their own life / work. Participation involves a one-off interview, lasting approximately 1 hour (maximum 1.5hours) with me around the topic of EC. With your permission, a voice recorder will be used so that our conversation can be transcribed. Data will be pseudonymised (where personal details which could identify you replaced with fictitious ones) and parts of it included in my thesis. All data collected from this research will be used solely for purposes of this study. Your personal details will be treated in the strictest confidence and will not be shared with anyone outside the research team. In exceptional circumstances, examiners would also need access to personal data for verification purposes.

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary, meaning you are free to accept or refuse to participate, without needing to give a reason. You are also free to withdraw from the study at any time, without needing to provide any explanation. Should you choose to withdraw, any data collected from your interview will be erased as long as this is technically possible (for example, before it is analyzed and published).

Please note also that, as a participant, you have the right under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and national legislation to access, rectify and where applicable ask for the data concerning you to be erased. All data collected will be stored securely for 5 years in case I choose to conduct further research on this topic and need to revisit the data. After 5 years, all data will be permanently destroyed.

A copy of this information sheet is being provided for you to keep and for future reference.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail laura.l.falzon.20@um.edu.mt. You can also contact my supervisor via email kay.polidano@um.edu.mt or phone (23406197)

Laura Falzon
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