

**Assessing UCLan dental students' skills for dental practice: longitudinal mixed-methods  
exploratory study (SkiP) – study two**

**Information sheet version 1**

**Why is this research taking place?** The undergraduate dental programme at the University of Central Lancashire is a relatively new study program which aims to equip students with the experience and expertise necessary for contemporary general dental practice and the upcoming challenges of demographic trends and professional changes. We are interested in how well our students perform compared to graduates from other dental schools so that we can inform our curriculum.

To capture some of this information we are undertaking a study to look at changes in the values, attitudes and emotions as well as the anticipated career trajectory of UCLan undergraduate dental students as they move from graduation through foundation training and into practice. We would also like to collect information from graduates from other dental schools undertaking training in local foundation training programmes for comparison purposes.

**Who are we?** We are a group of researchers based within the School of Dentistry at the University of Central Lancashire. We are working in collaboration with staff of UCLan undergraduate dental school, Health Education North West and Public Health England. However we are not involved in the training programme.

**Why have I been chosen?** You have been chosen because you are attending the North West foundation training programme.

**What will I have to do?** You will be required to self-complete a set of questionnaires at two time points over the next year. The questionnaires will take about 15 minutes to complete each time and will be given out at a training day. If you agree to take part, we will ask you to fill in a consent form. The first time you will be asked to complete the questionnaires will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016. The next set of questionnaires will be completed six months later at another training day. The questionnaires will ask you about issues related to professionalism, patient safety, attitudes towards team working and stress. If you are unable to attend the training day, we can send the questionnaires by post or email or ask you to complete them over the phone.

**What if I am a UCLan graduate and am already taking part in this study?** If you are a UCLan graduate and you already gave your consent to take part in the first phase of the study, you do not need to give consent to this part of the study. However, we would still ask you to complete the questionnaires as this will count towards the first study for which you have already given consent.

**What personal information will I have to give?** In order for us to link your questionnaires and keep in contact with you, we will request your name, address, email address and phone number.

**Will my data be kept confidential?** Electronic data will be stored in a password-protected folder on the UCLan network. Hard copy data will be stored in a locked filing cabinet. Only the research staff will have access to your data. Each participant will be given a unique study number which is linked to your contact details. This will be kept separately from any study data. Only aggregate data will be presented; it will not be possible to identify individuals. The data will not be accessed or transmitted off-site. Your contact details will be kept until the end of the study, or until you withdraw, at which point it will be destroyed and the data will be anonymised.

**Are there any instances when confidentiality will be broken?** As we have a duty of care, we would only break confidentiality if your responses suggest any serious concerns about your welfare or the welfare of patients. In these circumstances, we would follow Health Education North West procedures. Appropriate authorities may need to be informed if there any serious concerns about patient welfare.

**Do I have to take part?** No, it is up to you to decide whether you would like to take part. You may refuse to take part or withdraw at any time, without giving a reason. Up until the time the data is anonymised (about 7 months after the first questionnaire is completed), you can request to withdraw your individual data, whereupon your data will be deleted and all contact details destroyed. If you wish to withdraw you should contact Professor Stewardson

or Neil Cook (details below). Choosing not to take part will not affect your training in any way and will not be reported to any other body. Health Education North West staff are not involved in the recruitment process or in data collection.

**Are there any benefits to me?** There will be no direct benefits to you. However, the results of this research will be used to inform developments for UCLan undergraduate dentistry and dental foundation training.

**How will the information be used?** The findings may be published in reports or academic literature, presented and/or used for teaching purposes. Only aggregate data will be presented; it will not be possible to identify individuals. We will also send you newsletters about the study findings. If you do not wish to receive these please let us know by emailing Neil Cook, contact details below.

**What if I have any questions?** If any questions or further information, please contact the project lead Professor Dominic Stewardson on [dstewardson1@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:dstewardson1@uclan.ac.uk) or telephone 01772 895867 or Neil Cook, Research Assistant in Public Health Epidemiology at [ncook2@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:ncook2@uclan.ac.uk) or telephone 01772 893409.

**What if I have any complaints?** If you have any complaints, concerns or issues about this study, please contact the University Officer for Ethics at [OfficerForEthics@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:OfficerForEthics@uclan.ac.uk). To help identify the study please include the study name or description and the researcher. Please also include information about the substance of the complaint.