

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET – Study panellists

1. Study Information

Youth STEPS 2.0 – Study on Transitions and Evolving Pathways in Singapore

Principal Investigator:

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Study Collaborator: National Youth Council, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

2. Invitation to participate in this independent Study

You are invited to take part in this independent research study. It is important that you take the time to read and understand the information provided in this sheet. If you are satisfied that you understand what this study is about, and you wish to take part, please give your consent through the personalised survey link in the email sent to you. You will be given a copy of this Participant Information Sheet.

3. Purpose of conducting this Study

This study aims to investigate late youthhood development and transitions in Singapore, and will cover topics such as life aspirations, quality of relationships, personal values and attitudes, as well as achievements and well-being.

This long-term study tracks changes in the same group of respondents over a period of five years (5 waves) from 2024 to 2028.

4. How was I chosen for this Study?

You have been selected because you are a panellist of our original Youth STEPS research. In Youth STEPS 1.0 Wave 1, your address was randomly picked from the database of all residential addresses within Singapore, retrieved from government administrative records. You are one of 4,041 Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents aged between 17 and 24 years old (in 2017) who were interviewed for the first phase.

To qualify for inclusion in this study, participants must be able to understand the English language, be Singapore residents, and possess the capacity to provide informed consent.

5. What do I have to do for this Study?

If you take part in this study, you will be asked to complete a questionnaire on the demographic details about you and your family, your educational and work aspirations, civic engagement, and social attitudes. The questionnaire will be conducted in English.

For Youth STEPS 2.0 Wave 1, the questionnaire will be conducted online and will take around 30 minutes to complete. The questionnaire may also be conducted face-to-face if preferred. If you opt for the face-to-face method, trained interviewers from the National University of Singapore will visit you at a place of your convenience. This can be near or at your residence. You may choose to complete the questionnaire on your own or ask the interviewer to help read out each question and fill in your responses on your behalf.

If you agree to be part of the long-term study, we will contact you again about one year later (2025) for the Wave 2 survey, which may be conducted face-to-face, online, or by phone.

6. Will I be paid for participating in this Study?

Upon successful completion of the Wave 1 survey, you will be given S\$30 worth of vouchers as a token of appreciation. As a token of our gratitude for your participation in our Youth STEPS 1.0 study, you will receive an additional S\$10 worth of vouchers. You will not be receiving the token of appreciation on a pro-rated basis if you do not complete the survey or withdraw from the research before completing the survey.

7. Are there any risks in participating in this Study?

Some of the questions are on your personal information. If you are uncomfortable with any question, you may choose not to answer. If you do not wish to continue the survey at any point, for any reason, you may ask to stop for a break or withdraw from the study altogether. Your collected data will be destroyed and discarded if you decide to withdraw from the study.

8. Is participation in this Study voluntary?

Your participation is entirely voluntary. While there are no direct benefits from participating in this study, your participation will help the researchers better understand the issues faced by young Singaporeans. At the end of the project, we will send you a newsletter describing the major findings and alerting you to any research publications we have generated from the project.

9. Confidentiality of Information and Protection of Privacy

Information collected for this study will be kept confidential and stored under locked conditions. Your data and responses, to the extent of applicable laws and regulations, will not be made publicly available.

Your personal information, such as name, contact number, and address, will be separated from your answers to the questionnaire and coded (i.e., identified with a numerical ID). Your responses to the questionnaire will be linked only to this numerical ID. The data collected from you and other respondents will be anonymised and aggregated in the computer system for analysis so it will not be possible to tell what your specific responses are.

Only the Principal Investigator (Dr Teo Kay Key), two Data Administrators, and Study Sponsor (National Youth Council) will have full access to the data with personal identifiers. Other research analysts will only have access to coded data without personal identifiers. The overall research findings (without personal information) will be shared with other government agencies for policy-making purposes. By signing the Consent Form, you agree to the above arrangement and access to your records.

If you agree to participate, the survey will ask you for your name and contact number. This is for the purpose of allowing us to clarify any information with you, if necessary. This would also help us to contact you again for future waves of the survey. Please be assured that your contact details will be kept strictly confidential.

If you opt for the face-to-face method and you have requested for the interviewer to read out the survey questions and fill in your responses on your behalf, the interviewer will also ask for your permission to audio-record the entire interview. We will only use this recording for data verification and quality control. You may still proceed with participating in the survey even if you do not agree to the interview being recorded.

Your personal data will be retained for up to 7 years, after which it will be destroyed.

10. Who is conducting this Study?

This study is part of a research collaboration between the National Youth Council, an autonomous agency under the Ministry of Culture, Community, and Youth, and the Institute of Policy Studies Social Lab.

11. What if I have further questions?

If you have any questions about this study, you may contact any of the following persons:

- 1) **Dr Teo Kay Key, Principal Investigator**, tel: 6601 3220 or email: kaykey.teo@nus.edu.sg

- 2) **Ms Charlene Yeo, Head (Research), National Youth Council**, email: charlene_yeo@nyc.gov.sg

For an independent opinion specifically regarding the rights and welfare of research participants, you may contact a staff member of the National University of Singapore Institutional Review Board at telephone (+65) 6516 1234 [Mondays to Thursdays from 8.30am to 6pm, and Fridays from 8.30am to 5.30pm, except public holidays] or email at irb@nus.edu.sg.