

# **The Plymouth Student Scientist Project Information Sheet for Student Participants**

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This information is to help you decide whether to agree for your work to be used as part of a project described below. Please read this sheet carefully and ask your project tutor if there is anything that is unclear or that you would like more information about. If you decide not to take part, there will be no penalty or disadvantage to you of any kind.

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## **Q: What is 'The Plymouth Student Scientist' Project?**

**A:** The Faculty of Science has been awarded a sum of money (from the Teaching Quality & Enhancement Fund) to develop and disseminate more research-informed teaching activities. Academics in the Faculty of Science have decided that this can be effectively done via an electronic journal. The journal publishes a range of internal articles from both Plymouth staff and students, to promote and encourage different aspects of the research process. One key purpose of the e-journal is the dissemination of student honours projects and associated research items that are considered to be excellent examples of work from the three Schools of:

**Biological Sciences**

**Earth, Ocean & Environmental Sciences**

**Psychology**

## **Q: What do I have to do?**

**A:** You will be invited to submit your research to the e-journal. This may include the entire project or a portion of the work, such as a literature review; it is likely to differ across the Faculty due to the different project formats in each School. If you agree that your work can be used, all you have to do is to sign the Consent Form and provide your tutor with an electronic version of your work, if you haven't already done so.

## **Q: How will my work be used?**

**A:** Your work will be made available online via the e-journal and other students in Years 1 and 2 will be particularly encouraged to read your work to see the sort of science projects that can be carried out at Plymouth. This will help students to decide on a possible subject area and also allow students to see the sort of style that should be adopted when writing up research. Your project may also have the 'Future Work' and/or 'Limitations of Study' section removed from it, to allow tutors to use your work with other students to promote and encourage critical reflection in tutorials.

**Q: What sort of review comments might be made on my work?**

**A:** Evaluation comments made by other students on your work may be posted online as part of the peer-review process in the future. Tutors will not criticise your writing or add comments to it but will explain during tutorial sessions what other students should consider when they are reflecting on your work. Tutors will have a copy of any sections that may have been removed and may share these with other students, to see if they are able to identify the same issues as you during the review process. Remember, we only accept contributions from students that have produced a high quality piece of research once your work has been marked by staff in your School. Other students' potential review comments are not part of your assessment, and would not make any difference to the grade you get.

**Q: Won't other students just copy my work?**

**A:** Work held in the e-journal will be available to all staff and students. The University has electronic software which can be used to detect plagiarism and it would be a simple process to detect such deceit. We believe that our students are unlikely to copy from work that is so publicly visible and widely known to tutors in our Faculty.

**Q: Do I have to agree that my work can be used?**

**A:** It is entirely up to you whether or not you agree to let your work be included in the e-journal. If you decide to agree, please keep this information sheet for future reference and sign the associated consent form.

**Q: How do I access the e-journal?**

**A:** The first edition of the journal was published in Jan. 08 and the second issue in Sept.08: they can be accessed via: <http://www.theplymouthstudentscientist.org.uk/>

**Q: Who is running the project?**

**A:** The project is being run by staff in the Faculty of Science at the University of Plymouth. If you have any further questions about the project please contact the relevant member of staff in your School:

Dr Karen Gresty (Project Lead), **Biological Sciences:** [kgresty@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:kgresty@plymouth.ac.uk)

Dr Ken Kingston, **Earth, Ocean & Environmental Sciences:**  
[kkingston@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:kkingston@plymouth.ac.uk)

Dr Tim Auburn, **Psychology:** [tauburn@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:tauburn@plymouth.ac.uk)

Or the Research Assistant for the project:

Mr Andrew Edwards, **Faculty of Science:** [andrew.edwards1@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.edwards1@plymouth.ac.uk)

**Thank you for taking the time to consider being involved.**