



**RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD**  
**FoH First Year Nursing Students' Difficult Experiences**  
**Survey Consent Form**

**Title of Research Project:** Faculty of Health First Year Nursing Students' Difficult Experiences , the Impact, and the Support Needed

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Lida Blizzard, Faculty, Kwantlen Polytechnic University:

**Application #** 2014-032

**Voluntary participation:** Your participation in this research project is completely voluntary. You have the right to withdraw from the research study at any time. Even if you do not want to join the study or if you withdraw from the study, you will still receive the same quality of instruction that other students receive. Your decision also will not jeopardize your grades or studies at Kwantlen in any way. If you withdraw from the study, the data that you provided will be withdrawn as well. You can ask the principal investigator listed below any questions you may have about this research study. You may ask him/her questions in the future if you do not understand something that is being done. The investigators will share with you any new findings that may develop while you are participating in this study. This consent form explains the research study you are being asked to join. Please review this form carefully and ask any questions about the study before you agree to join. You may also ask questions at any time after joining the study. See below for persons to contact.

**Purpose of Research Project:** The purpose of this research study is to gain further understanding of the difficulties that Faculty of Health First Year BSN or BPN students experience in the program, the impact that it had on them, and the support measures that are needed to assist students in successfully meeting the course requirements. Study findings will not assist us in better understanding this issue, but provide a foundation from which we can develop curriculum, institutional policy, and support services to enhance students' success.

**Procedures:** As a student who has attended the first year of the Faculty of Health BSN or BPN program, your perspectives will be very valuable to this study. You are invited to participate in an online survey entitled *FoH First Year Nursing Students' Difficult Experiences Survey*. The survey can be accessed by clicking the link provided at the end of this document. Clicking this link serves as affirmation that you consent to participate in the online survey component of this research study. The survey will take approximately **15 minutes** to complete. Upon completion of the survey you will be provided with an opportunity to participate in the second phase of the study which involves participating in a confidential interview with the researcher. The summarized findings of this study will be shared with Kwantlen Polytechnic University faculty members and students upon completion of the study. The data will be destroyed 5 years following completion of the data analysis and publication of the findings (tentatively 2021)

**Risks of harm/Discomforts/Inconvenience:** It must be acknowledged that answering the online survey questions may evoke uncomfortable memories about your difficult first year experiences. If you experience uncomfortable emotions or other effects from sharing your difficult experiences during this study, and would like to talk to someone, assistance can be obtained by contacting KPU Counselling Services at 604-599-2100, or your personal physician.

**Benefits [including compensation if any]:** You may indirectly benefit from this study as the information that you provide adds to the limited amount of research on Nursing students' difficult first year experiences, and the impact that it had on students. Study findings will provide a foundation for the development of programs / services to

assist in the early recognition, prevention, and interventions required to support students through their difficulties. Students, faculty members, and administrators may also benefit from your contribution to this study.

**Confidentiality:** Participation in this study is strictly voluntary. Survey questionnaires will remain anonymous and individual interviews will remain confidential in accordance with the legal and ethical responsibilities of the researcher. Information on the survey questionnaires cannot be linked to the true identity of participants. Survey questionnaire data will be stored on the secure *Fluid Surveys Database* within a secure server in Canada. Data will be analyzed and reported as a summary to ensure there is no ability to identify individual research participants. No research participants' names will be disclosed at any time. You will not be asked to disclose the name of individuals in the survey questionnaire. Should you inadvertently disclose a person's true identity; the names will be edited and transcribed to reflect a pseudonym or role. The information resulting from this research survey may be used in future publications or presentations. Any identifying information will be removed prior to these publications or presentations. Summarized data findings will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in a locked office, accessible only to the researcher.

**Persons to Contact:** If you want to talk to anyone about this research study because you think you have not been treated fairly or think you have been hurt by joining the study, or you have any other questions about the study, you should call the principal investigator, Lida Blizard at 604-599-3156 or Dr. Megan Meredith-Lobay, Coordinator, Research Ethics Board ([megan.meredith-lobay@kpu.ca](mailto:megan.meredith-lobay@kpu.ca)) 604-599-2373. Once you have read this document, or the document has been read and explained to you, and you have been given the chance to ask any questions, please retain one copy of this consent form for your records and proceed to the survey questionnaire link that is provided. If you decide that you do not want to participate in the study, please exit this document.

By clicking the online survey link contained in the email, I hereby provide my consent to participate in this study. I understand that if I do not want to answer a survey question, I can proceed to the next question. I understand that I can withdraw from this study at any time without consequence to me. Participants have not waived any rights to legal recourse in the event of research-related harm.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information and consider participating in this research study.

Sincerely,



Dr. Lida Blizard, Primary Investigator  
Faculty, Faculty of Health  
Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Co-Investigators: Dr. Gamini Randini, Faculty, BPN Program; Dr. Alice MacPherson, Learning Strategist, KPU Learning Centre; Wendy Belter, Councillor, KPU Councillor; Laurie Detwiler, Councillor, KPU Councillor;