

INFORMATION SHEET

For participating students

Title: HELPING FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS FLOURISH THROUGH LANGUAGES

Researchers:

Dr Antonella Strambi
Department of Languages and Applied Linguistics (Flinders University)
Ph: (08) 8201 2622

Dr Ann Luzeckyj
Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching (Flinders University)
Ph: (08) 8201 3844

Associate Professor Antonia Rubino
Department of Italian Studies (The University of Sydney)
Ph: (02) 9351 4608

Description of the study:

This study is part of the project entitled HELPING FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS FLOURISH THROUGH LANGUAGES. The project involves evaluating the contribution of language learning activities to first-year students' psychological, emotional, and social well-being. The project is supported by the Australian Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT).

Purpose of the study:

This project aims to find out if the resources provided to you during your Italian courses are effective in supporting your learning of the Italian language, as well as your psychological, emotional and social well-being.

What will I be asked to do?

You will be invited to complete the Mental Health Continuum Survey (Short version), which is a 14-statement questionnaire, which is available from the course website on Blackboard. The survey should take between 10 and 15 minutes to complete. We would like you to complete the MHC survey at least once at the end of the semester. You may also be invited to participate in a 30-minute interview.

We would like to be able to report on your experience in this course at professional conferences and through academic publications. In order to do this, we are seeking your consent to utilize information that is already been collected for quality assurance and teaching/learning purposes – this includes Student evaluation of teaching surveys and learning analytics (i.e. data that is automatically recorded by the University learning management system). There is no extra time commitment from you for this purpose.

What benefit will I gain from being involved in this study?

The sharing of your experiences will improve the planning and delivery of future programs. We are very keen to deliver a service and resources which are as useful as possible to people.

Will I be identifiable by being involved in this study?

The data that is collected through this study (e.g. learning analytics, surveys and interviews) is linked to individual students, and is therefore not anonymous. However, only the project manager (Ms Joy Tennant) will know whether you have agreed to participate in this research study. Therefore, your participation will be anonymous and confidential - this information will not be available to the other researchers, including your lecturer. If you consent to participate in this research study, any identifying information will be removed from the relevant documents, and data will be stored on a password protected computer. Your data will not be linked directly to you in any publication arising from this project. The interviews will be conducted by a researcher who has no involvement with the teaching or coordination of the topic in which you are enrolled. Your name or identity will not be revealed to any other persons

Are there any risks or discomforts if I am involved?

Other group members may be able to identify your contributions even though they will not be directly attributed to you. Given that Dr Antonella Strambi is also topic coordinator for ITAL1202, there is a potential risk of pressure or coercion to participate in this study. In order to manage this risk, Dr. Antonella Strambi will not have access to consent forms until after your marks have been officially recorded at the end of the year. This way, whether you decide to participate or not in this research project, your decision will have no impact on your academic results for the topic. The investigators anticipate few risks from your involvement in this study. If you have any concerns regarding anticipated or actual risks or discomforts, please raise them with the investigators. There is a slight possibility that you may experience emotional discomfort when engaging in some of the FL2 activities that form part of this project. If this was the case, we would strongly advise you to make use of the many support services freely available to you, including:

- Flinders University students: Counselling service, Tel. 8201 2118 for an appointment, or Phonelink Counselling Service from 3.30pm-5pm. Phone 8201 2118.
- University of Sydney students: Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Tel. 8627-8433 or 8627-8437; caps.admin@sydney.edu.au
- Lifeline, Tel. 13 11 14 (24 hour phone counselling and crisis support)
- Mental Health Access Line: 1800 011 511 (24 hours) will put you in touch with the Adult Crisis Team in your local area
- Kids Helpline (for up to 25 years old): 1800 551 800
- [Beyondblue](http://www.beyondblue.org.au/): <http://www.beyondblue.org.au/>
- [Black Dog Institute](http://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/): <http://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/>

How do I agree to participate?

Participation is voluntary. You may answer 'no comment' or refuse to answer any questions and you are free to withdraw from the project at any time without effect or consequences. A consent form accompanies this information sheet. If you agree to participate please read and sign the form and return it to Ms Joy Tennant, FL2 Project Manager (Flinders University – email: joy.tennant@flinders.edu.au).

How will I receive feedback?

Outcomes from the project will be summarised and given to you by the investigator if you would like to see them.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet and we hope that you will accept our invitation to be involved.

This research project has been approved by the Flinders University Social and Behavioural Research Ethics Committee (Project number 7173). For more information regarding ethical approval of the project the Executive Officer of the Committee can be contacted by telephone on 8201 3116, by fax on 8201 2035 or by email human.researchethics@flinders.edu.au