

PIVOTAL

Participant Information form

Title of project:	Retaining and regaining talent in Northern Ireland: Phase One, An exploration of educational migration.
Chief Investigator:	Dr Ben Harper
Study No:	Retaining and regaining talent in Northern Ireland
Contact details:	ben@pivotalppf.org

Participant information sheet

Study title: **Retaining and regaining talent in Northern Ireland: Phase One, An exploration of educational migration.**

Ethics approval reference: **QUB QMS 09/20**

1. What is Pivotal?

Pivotal is an independent think tank that aims to help improve public policy in Northern Ireland. Pivotal is independent of government and has no political alignment. Pivotal was established to promote greater use of evidence and research in policy making in Northern Ireland and to engage a wider range of people in public policy debate. We complete research to explore the economic and social challenges facing Northern Ireland, for example low productivity, under-investment in infrastructure and climate change.

Pivotal is led by Director Ann Watt who has over twenty years' experience within the Civil Service. The team includes a senior administrator, research interns, a research assistant and research manager, Dr Ben Harper. Ben has over ten years' experience of completing research using qualitative and quantitative methods in NHS, social care and community settings. Further information about Pivotal may be obtained on our website, www.pivotalppf.org.uk.

2. What is the purpose of this research?

This research aims to better understand educational migration in Northern Ireland. This issue is sometimes described as the 'brain drain', whereby young people complete higher education outside of Northern Ireland.

Our research wishes to speak with key people involved in this issue. These include: students, university admission staff and graduate employers.

You may be invited to take part in an online questionnaire or an online interview / focus groups. We wish to ask you about the following key areas:

- *Factors that informed decision making*

Pivotal | Public Policy Forum NI Ltd |

| Email: info@pivotalppf.org | Web: www.pivotalppf.org |

PIVOTAL

- *Experiences of moving outside of Northern Ireland to study*
- *Attitudes to returning to Northern Ireland after completion of degree*

3. Why have I been invited to take part?

This research is interested in addressing a gap in previous research in an attempt to develop solutions to the issue of educational migration in Northern Ireland. We wish to include important people in this issue. This includes three primary groups:

- Students
- University staff responsible for admissions
- Graduate employers

4. What does taking part in this study mean for me?

You may be asked to take part in an online questionnaire or an online interview / focus group. You will be asked questions related to:

- *Factors that informed decision making*
- *Experiences of moving outside of Northern Ireland to study*
- *Attitudes to returning to Northern Ireland after completion of degree*

You do not have to answer any question that you do not feel comfortable with.

5. How long will it take?

The online questionnaire will take approximately 10-15 minutes and the interview/focus group may take between 30-45 minutes.

6. What are the risks of taking part?

There are no known risks associated with taking part. We will not ask you any personal questions, for example questions related to your mental health, personal relationships etc. the question format is based on your experience of accessing education and your solutions to challenges associated with educational migration.

7. Can I withdraw from the study?

Being involved in the study is completely voluntary. You can withdraw from the study at any period. Please contact Dr Ben Harper (ben@pivotalppf.org) who can remove your data.

8. How will you keep my information confidential?

There will be no identifying information stored about your responses. This form will be stored separately to the questionnaire and interview data. The research team will not use your name, address or any other identifying information.

PIVOTAL

During an interview/focus group confidentiality may be broken if you disclose something that indicates that you or someone else is at risk of harm. In this instance we will always try and discuss this issue with you directly before we contact an outside party (e.g. GP).

9. How will my data be stored?

Data will be stored on a secure, password protected, online database (www.qualtrics.com). This data based is fully compliant with GDPR regulations. Data is not shared with any external parties outside of the Pivotal research team.

10. Who can I contact with questions about the study?

You can contact the Chief Investigator Dr Ben Harper (ben@pivotalppf.org). If for some reason you are unhappy with the communication with Ben, you may contact Ann Watt, Director (ann@pivotalppf.org).