



Teaching that Matters for Migrant Students: TEAMS

Understanding Levers of Integration in Scotland, Finland and Sweden

TEAMS Information Sheet for Parents and Carers (Version v2)

Please note: This form is available in other languages and formats.

Your child's school is participating in a research project, called TEAMS.

What is TEAMS?

TEAMS is an international research project, involving schools in Scotland, Finland and Sweden. In Scotland, the project is run from the University of Edinburgh and the principal investigator is Dr. Nataša Pantić.

The aim of the research is to help teachers and school leaders meet the needs of migrant students in secondary schools, by understanding the opportunities, challenges and barriers for migrant students and their teachers. We hope that this will help migrant students to feel a part of their school community, not only now, but also for other migrant students in different countries, in the future. **The project has the full support** of the City of Edinburgh Council, the University of Edinburgh, and the Head Teacher of your child's school.

In the research, we will find out about the experiences of migrant students of being at school in Scotland. We also want to compare their experiences with the experiences of students who do not have migrant backgrounds.

We will also talk to teachers, and to other adults in your child's school, to hear about their experiences of supporting students from migrant or other backgrounds.

How will it work?

The research team will work with migrant students and their teachers in a few secondary schools in Scotland. Researchers in Finland and Sweden will work in schools in the same way as we do here.

The project will go on until February 2023, but we will only be in your child's school for some of the time, for a few days at a time, during three periods of about three months, over a little more than a year.

All activities will take place in school, and during the school day. Teachers, and/or other support workers your child knows, will be present during the activities, and additional support will be available, such as with language, to ensure your child can join in. **Your child will not miss any important school work or commitments due to the research.**

What will the research activities be?

We will hold some **creative workshops** with groups of students, where they will be able to do and make things, to tell their own story, or present any aspect of their experience that they choose. The students will be able to work with a professional filmmaker, to make a short film about their experiences. The students will have an important role in how this is done. Later on, we will have an exhibition to present the work of all the students in the group to others in your child's school, and to family and friends. We have a project **website** and your child's work from the project can be visible there too, if you and your child agree.

We will also be **going into some classes** in the school, to see how teachers work with students, and we will talk to students and to teachers and support staff, about teaching and learning, and being part of the school community.

We will have **longer conversations** with teachers, and some students, about their experiences. If we had a conversation with your child, it would last around 30 minutes. If you and your child agree, it would be audio-recorded.

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We will also ask all students in some year groups, including your child's year group, to fill in an **online survey**. The survey takes about 20 minutes, and it will help us understand how students feel about being a part of the school community. The survey has questions about students' relationships with adults and other students in the school, about students' attitudes towards schools, and about students' families and backgrounds. Staff members in your child's school will also be filling in another, different, survey.

What about Covid-19?

As it is not certain when schools will be fully open again, we plan to start some project activities online, through the school. This will mean that no young person is excluded from the activities because they are out of school.

Does my child have to do this?

No, definitely not. While we hope that you will encourage your child to participate in the project, you may indicate that you do not wish this to happen. If you agree to your child's participation in the project, your child is free to choose whether to participate or not. There will be no problems for you or your family, whatever you decide.

Both you and your child will be free to withdraw your agreement to participate in the project at any time. If you would like to do this at any point, and/or if you would like us to delete any information we have about your child or raise issues and concerns about the study, please use the contact information below.

What happens with the information?

When research is done, there are very strict rules about keeping everyone safe and making sure that no personal information is made public. This is very important to us all on the team, and we follow the rules of the University of Edinburgh about this. As a team, we have been given approval to do this project, by the University, by The City of Edinburgh Council and also by your school Head Teacher.

All information given as part of the research will be kept confidentially, safely and securely. Any identifying information will not be shared outside of the research team, and will be stored separately to anonymous data, to make sure that data will not be traceable back to your child or family.

During the project and when the project is finished, we hope to publish some reports and give presentations at conferences. When we do this, all names or other personal details about anyone from the project will be made anonymous. Anonymous data will be kept on university and national data repositories after the project ends.

We have a project website, where you will be able to find out more about our publications: <https://migrant-education.net/outputs>. With your agreement, photos of your child, or of your child's art or creative work, may also be posted on the website pages.

What happens next?

We will give written information about the project to your child, and you will have the opportunity to ask questions.

You will be asked if you agree for your child to take part in the research. This will be on a written Consent Form, for you to sign. Your child will also have a consent form to sign. However, your child will not be included in the research, if you do not wish it. You may withdraw your consent to the project, once it is started, or your child may do so, at any time. There will be no problems if you or your child withdraw.

For more information: Please speak to your child's link teacher and he/she will be able to give you more information or contact the team, on your behalf, if you have any questions they cannot answer.

Thank you very much for reading this information sheet.

Link Teacher (for more information and to contact the research team): David Dalgleish

Contact for requesting that your data be deleted: marc.sarazin@ed.ac.uk

TEAMS Principal Investigator: natasa.pantic@ed.ac.uk

Outreach Co-ordinator: elaine.gray@ed.ac.uk

Contact person outside the team (for issues, concerns, and complaints): Dr. Fiona O'Hanlon fiona.ohanlon@ed.ac.uk