**Cardiff University**

**Evaluating the needs of international students parents**

**Cardiff University: Sophie Pandey, Elisabeth Williams, Cardiff University.Tessa Duell,**

**Appendices**

Appendix 1: Online Survey

Evaluating the needs of international students who are parents at Cardiff University

International Student Support are working to better understand the needs and experiences of international students at Cardiff University, who are also parenting AND/OR are pregnant during their studies. We want to improve our services, therefore your experience as both a student and a parent AND/OR a prospective parent, at the University is important to us. This survey is confidential and your answers will only be visible to the research team. The survey data will only be used for research purposes at Cardiff University's International Student Support and stored securely, after which it will be deleted/destroyed.

\* Required

1.Please confirm your current level of study at Cardiff University: \*  
Undergraduate  
Postgraduate (Taught)  
Postgraduate (Research)

2.Please select your academic school: \*  
Cardiff Business School (CARBS)  
School of Biosciences (BIOSI)  
School of Chemistry (CHEMY)  
School of Computer Science and Informatics (COMSC)  
School of Dentistry (DENTL)  
School of Earth and Ocean Sciences (EARTH)  
School of Engineering (ENGIN)  
School of English, Communication and Philosophy (ENCAP)  
School of Geography and Planning (CPLAN)  
School of Healthcare Sciences (SOHCS)  
School of History, Archaeology and Religion (SHARE)  
School of Journalism, Media and Culture (JOMEC)  
School of Law and Politics (LAWPL)  
School of Mathematics (MATHS)  
School of Medicine (MEDIC)  
School of Modern Languages (MLANG)  
School of Music (MUSIC)  
School of Optometry and Vision Sciences (OPTOM)  
School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (PHRMY)  
School of Psychology (PSYCH)  
School of Social Sciences (SOCSI)  
School of Physics and Astronomy (PHYSX)  
School of Welsh (WELSH)  
School of Architecture (ARCHI)

3.Please indicate your age: \*  
18-24  
25-30  
31-35  
36-40  
41-45  
46-50  
50 plus

4.Please select your gender: \*Required to answerSingle choice

*Note: being cisgender means you identify with the gender assigned to you at birth.*

Cisgender Male

Cisgender Female

Transgender Male

Transgender Female

Non-binary/genderfluid/Other

5.Please confirm your nationality: \*  
[Enter your answer]

6.Please select your relationship status: \*  
Married  
Civil Partnership  
Unmarried partner  
Divorced  
Separated  
Widowed  
Single

7.How many dependent children do you have in the UK with you, if any?Required to answerMultiple choice

*This includes all children under the age of 18 and also any dependent children over the age of 18, who are in the UK with you. You can choose multiple answers if you have children and are also pregnant.*

Currently pregnant



1



2



3



4



5 or more



8.If you do have dependent children with you in the UK, please confirm the age of each child  
[Enter your answer]

9.If you have a spouse/partner with you in the UK, do they look after the children while you study?Single choice

*Skip this question if it does not apply to you*

Yes - daytime and night-time



Yes - daytime only



Yes - night-time only



No



10.If you answered no to question 9, please explain your childcare arrangements while you study, OR/AND if you are pregnant, please explain how you schedule antenatal/pregnancy commitments during your studying?  
[Enter your answer]

11.Please indicate how you have found the experience of being a parent OR/AND a prospective parent... \*

Required to answer

|  | Very easy | Easy | Neither easy or difficult | Difficult | Very difficult |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| BEFORE studying at Cardiff University |  |  |  |  |  |
| SINCE studying at Cardiff University |  |  |  |  |  |

Likert

12.Please explain your answer to question 11  
[Enter your answer]

13.Does being a parent OR/AND prospective parent affect your studies? Please explain your answer \*  
[Enter your answer]

14.What support, if any, have you received from the University to help you and your (prospective) family? \*Required to answerMultiple choice

*Select all that apply to you*

Accommodation services



Childcare facilities



Counselling and Wellbeing services



Extenuating circumstances applications



Financial advice



Help with school admission applications



Immigration and visa advice



Social events



No support received



|  | Very poor | Poor | Neither good nor poor/okay | Good | Very good |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| FINDING information and support at the university regarding your parenting/pregnancy |  |  |  |  |  |
| The QUALITY of information and support at university regarding your parenting/pregnancy |  |  |  |  |  |

15.As a student who is also a parent AND/OR pregnant at Cardiff, please rate the following: \*

Required to answerLikert

16.What further help, if any, do you think Cardiff University should be providing international students who are parenting AND/OR are pregnant in the UK?Multi-line Text

*Please be as specific as possible (all suggestions welcome)*

[Enter your answer]

17.Do you think student-parents (including prospective parents) are represented at Cardiff University? \*Required to answerSingle choice

Yes



No



Not sure



18.If you would like to be entered into our prize draw to win one of our £50 Amazon vouchers, please enter your email address and student number below.

[Enter your answer]

19.Would you be interested in helping to improve the University's services more by participating in a one-time focus group to discuss the needs of international students who are parents AND/OR prospective parents? \*Required to answerSingle choice

*If you would like to participate but you are concerned about childcare arrangements or accessibility, please contact us at [researcher’s email] and we will do our best to accommodate you. Refreshments will be provided.*

Yes



No



20.If you selected yes to question 19 and would like to participate in a focus group, please supply your email address and/or telephone number below.Single-line text

*We will contact you with further information about the focus group session.*

[Enter your answer]

21.If you selected yes to question 19 and would like to participate in a focus group, do you have a preference for which focus group you attend, based on gender?Single choice

Yes, I would prefer a single gendered focus group



No I do not have a preference (mixed gendered focus group)



**Appendix 2**

Focus Group Talking Points

MAKE SURE YOU ARE RECORDING!

Remind participants: *This session is FOR YOU, more of a conversation, don’t worry if you think you’re interrupting me, all experiences (big and small) are worth sharing, no right or wrong answers!*

*Introductions: names, what participants study…*

1. Is there anything you weren’t prepared for or that you wished someone had told you about?
2. What services/support if any, have you accessed at Cardiff University and were they helpful? How so?
3. How have your children settled into life in the UK? What has been their experience so far?
4. Do you feel your role and responsibilities as a parent have changed since becoming a student here?
5. Do your tutors or lecturers know that you are also parenting while studying?
6. Do you have friends on your course who are also parents? How did their experiences compare to yours?
7. Have you ever had to apply for extenuating circumstances? How did you find it?
8. Do you feel supported in the UK by your spouse or partner- we would be keen to understand the support you receive from your spouse or partner if applicable , do they look after your children while you study? *(Probably only applies if they are in relationship)*
9. ~~How helpful have you found the guarantor scheme?~~ [omitted]
10. What can the university do to help international student-parents more?