

SAMPLE CONSENT DOCUMENT

FOR SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH

[THIS DOCUMENT MUST BE WRITTEN IN A LANGUAGE UNDERSTANDABLE TO THE SUBJECT]

Principal Investigator:

Student Researcher:

Study Title:

You are being asked to provide consent to participate in a research study. Participation is voluntary. You can say yes or no. If you say yes now you can still change your mind later.

[Purpose of research.] This research is being done to better understand XXX..... You are being asked to participate because you are... *[describe participant inclusion criteria, such as “an expatriate living in the UAE” or “a member of the community” or whatever is applicable for your study]*

[Procedures to be followed.] “You will be asked to *[describe research methods, such as “complete a survey about XXX”, or “be interviewed about XXX”, “be in a focus group about XXX”, “be observed during....”]* The [survey/interview] questions are about XXX. **[For audio recording]** With your permission, I would like to tape record the interview. You have the right to review recordings and request that they be deleted. If you decline to be audiotaped, I will take notes instead. **[include if applicable:** Participation will involve observation of *public event or group activity*].

[Duration of participation.] Participation will involve approximately XX minutes of your time

[Risks or inconveniences.] “We believe there are no known risks associated with this research study; however, a possible inconvenience may be the time it takes to complete the study.”

OR:

“We believe the risks for participation in this study are minimal. The most common risks of *[answering surveys or being interviewed]* is a possible breach of your privacy or confidentiality. **[add if applicable:** “Some of the questions on the surveys or interview about political, religious, etc. views may be sensitive, **OR** Some of the questions on the surveys or interview may be personal and may cause you to feel upset. You can skip any question that you want to, or stop the interview at any time]

Your participation in this research is voluntary, and you will not be penalized or lose benefits if you refuse to participate or decide to stop. **[if participant is a student:** statement that choice to participate or not will have no effect on their academic standing. **For employees:** similar statement about their employment]

[Benefits to the participant or to others. DO NOT include payments for participation or other incentives and gifts as a benefit of participation.] You will not benefit directly from participating in this study. We hope to learn more about, and your participation will help us to do that.

[Address any payments/incentives for participation – for research in Abu Dhabi this needs to be referred to as a ‘subsistence allowance’ or ‘meal/travel allowance’]

[Privacy and Confidentiality]: [SUGGESTED Statement to begin section (*be sure to describe procedures specific to your study*): “The following procedures will be used to protect the confidentiality of your data. The researchers will keep all study records stored in a secure location. All electronic files (e.g., database, spreadsheet, etc.) containing identifiable information will be password protected. Any computer hosting such files will also have password protection to prevent access by unauthorized users. Only the members of the research staff will have access to the passwords. Data that will be shared with others will be anonymized to help protect your identity. At the conclusion of this study, the researchers may publish their findings. Information will be presented in summary format and you will not be identified in any publications or presentations.”

[State how long study records will be kept, where they will be kept (consider long-term storage) and who will have access to them]. [If participants are audio or video recorded, describe who will transcribe or view the tapes]. Please note: study records may be kept indefinitely, as long as the data has been stripped of identifiable information and described as such in the information sheet.] **Suggested statement:** “After the interview has been transcribed, the audio recording will be erased.” OR: “Once your survey responses have been recorded and analyzed, the paper survey will be destroyed. The anonymous data will be stored until data analysis is completed”.

[For vulnerable populations: State that information about them (and, if applicable, the community in which they live) will not be divulged, and in the final report will be described in such a way that individual participants cannot be identified.]

“You should also know that the NYUAD Institutional Review Board (IRB) may inspect study records as part of its auditing program, but these reviews will only focus on the researchers and not on your responses or involvement. The IRB is a group of people who review research studies to protect the rights and welfare of research participants.

“If you have further questions about this study or if you have a research-related problem, you may contact the principal investigator, (*insert name and email address*) or the student researcher (*insert name and email address*). If you have any questions concerning your rights as a research participant, you may contact the New York University Abu Dhabi Institutional Review Board (IRB) at irbnyuad@nyu.edu.

**PLEASE REFER TO ‘ELEMENTS OF CONSENT’ LIST, THERE MAY BE OTHER STATEMENTS TO INCLUDE
BASED ON YOUR RESEARCH**