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The Value of a Degree: Chemistry Students' Perceptions of Educational Mismatch

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Central University Research Ethics Committee (CUREC) Approval Reference: ED-C1A-20-105

1. *Why is this research being conducted?*

The aim of this study is to explore chemistry students' perceptions of the value of their degree in terms of their future employment opportunities through semi-structured interviews. Findings will be reported as part of a dissertation for the MSc Education (Higher Education).

2. *Why have I been invited to take part?*

You have been invited because you are a final-year undergraduate chemistry student at the University of Oxford and are between the ages of 18 and 24.

3. *Do I have to take part?*

No. You can ask questions about the research before deciding whether or not to take part. If you do agree to take part, you may withdraw yourself from the study at any time, without giving a reason, by advising either of the researchers of this decision.

4. *What will happen to me if I take part in the research?*

If you are happy to take part in the research, you will be asked to attend a single interview at a safe, mutually convenient location within Oxford, such as your college, department, or a local café. Throughout the interview, you will be asked questions relating to your experience studying chemistry and your post-graduation plans. There will be no follow-up interview,

however, it is possible that the researcher will email you with follow-up questions if clarification on a point you made is deemed necessary.

The interview should take approximately 30 minutes. You can ask to pause or stop the interview at any time. With your consent, the interview will be audio recorded for the purpose of transcription by the researcher. All data will be anonymised and may be reported in the researcher's MSc dissertation. Personalised data that could identify you will not be included in any published material.

If you are still happy to take part, you will be asked to sign a consent form.

5. *Are there any potential risks in taking part?*

There are no expected risks in taking part in the study.

6. *Are there any benefits in taking part?*

Taking part in the study may give you the opportunity to reflect on your experiences studying chemistry at the University of Oxford and to contemplate your future plans.

7. *What happens to the data provided?*

The information you provide during the study is the **research data**. Any research data from which you can be identified (e.g. your name, audio recordings) is known as **personal data**.

Personal / sensitive data will be stored confidentially using the University of Oxford's HFS storage service until the dissertation has been submitted and graded. At this point, all data will be destroyed. **Other research data** (including consent forms) will be stored for at least 3 years after publication or public release of the work of the research to allow the researcher to potentially draw upon such data for further study or publication.

The researcher and supervisor will have access to the research data. Responsible members of the University of Oxford may be given access to data for monitoring and/or audit of the research.

We would like your permission to use direct quotes, with your name pseudonymised in any research outputs.

8. *Will the research be published?*

The University of Oxford is committed to the dissemination of its research for the benefit of society and the economy and, in support of this commitment, has established an online

archive of research materials. This archive includes digital copies of student theses successfully submitted as part of a University of Oxford postgraduate degree programme. Holding the archive online gives easy access for researchers to the full text of freely available theses, thereby increasing the likely impact and use of that research.

The research will be written up as a student's thesis. On successful submission of the thesis, it may be deposited both in print and online in the University archives to facilitate its use in future research. If so, the thesis will be openly accessible.

9. *Who has reviewed this study?*

This study has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through, the University of Oxford Central University Research Ethics Committee (Reference number: ED-C1A-20-105).

10. *Who do I contact if I have a concern about the study or I wish to complain?*

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please contact Lauren Bolz [lauren.bolz@worc.ox.ac.uk] or Susan James Relly [susan.jamesrelly@education.ox.ac.uk] and we will do our best to answer your query. We will acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how it will be dealt with. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the Chair of the Research Ethics Committee at the University of Oxford who will seek to resolve the matter as soon as possible:

Chair, **Social Sciences & Humanities Inter-Divisional Research Ethics Committee**;
Email: ethics@socsci.ox.ac.uk; Address: Research Services, University of Oxford,
Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD

11. *Data Protection*

The University of Oxford is the data controller with respect to your personal data, and as such will determine how your personal data is used in the study. The University will process your personal data for the purpose of the research outlined above. Research is a task that is performed in the public interest.

Further information about your rights with respect to your personal data is available from <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/individualrights/>.

12. Further Information and Contact Details

If you would like to discuss the research with someone beforehand (or if you have questions afterwards), please contact:

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