

Micro-credential in co-design: A project for neurodiverse young people in Whittlesea

What is the project?

This is a research project to support you as a neurodiverse young person to identify and build your skills and abilities to work with others, like working in a group or a team. This is Co-design.



Why is the project happening?

This project aims to give you the opportunity to demonstrate your skills in communication and working in a team to further assist your transition into employment in the future. We will also be working together to influence how employers understand your needs and recognize you as a valuable employee.

What are some good things for you about being part of the project?

- You will receive a Micro-credential in Co-design for Diversity and Inclusion. This is a digital 'mini-qualification' that provides evidence that you can work well with others to achieve a shared goal.
- You will receive up to *\$1000 for your participation in recognition of your hard work.
- You will contribute to important research and information that can be used to support more young neurodiverse people in the future.



Who is running the project?

This project is being facilitated by representatives from RMIT University and the Hume Whittlesea Local Learning and Employment Network (HWLLEN).

How do you find out more and become involved in the project?



Let your support worker know and they will provide you with more details about the project. If you want to be part of the project, you will be supported in completing the **Participants Information Sheet and Consent Form**.

If some things in the form are not very clear, please ask your support worker to explain.

We want you to feel confident about asking questions and agreeing to be part of the project.



*Conditions Apply. Please note participants need to be aged between 16 and 24 years and identify as Neurodiverse.

Micro-Credential in Co-Design Project – Project Description

What is the project?

This is a research project to support you to identify and build your skills and abilities to work with others, like working in a group or a team. This is called Co-design.

Why is this project happening?

By being able to prove your skills in working in a team and being able to communicate what your support needs are we think this will help you to achieve some personal goals, participate more easily in your community and progress to employment in the future.

In other words, this project aims to assist you in your transition to employment (and training) and pave the way for others in the future as they approach the challenge of entering the workforce. We will also be working together to influence how employers understand your needs and recognize you as a valuable employee.

Who is running the project?

This project is being run with **RMIT University** and the **Hume Whittlesea Local Learning and Employment Network (HWLLEN)**.

See Frequently Asked question (FAQ) at the end of this document for further information.

Do you have to take part in the project?

Deciding to be part of this project is completely your choice – if you don't want to take part you do not have to. If you decide to take part, you are free to stop participating at any stage along the way.

What do you have to do if you want to be part of the project?

Let your support worker/HWLLEN staff know, and they will help you to complete the **Participants Information Sheet and Consent Form**. This will have some more information in it and if some things in the form are not very clear please ask your support worker/other staff to help you. We want you to feel very comfortable about asking questions and agreeing to be part of the project.

What is involved if you want to be part of the project?

Milestone meetings

You will participate in three different milestone meetings (possibly with your support worker).

- In the first milestone meeting you will discuss your experiences of co-design and how it can improve your participation in post-school transitions and consider the principles of co-design. You will be assisted in collecting evidence of your capabilities in co-design.
- In the second milestone meeting you will be assisted in collecting evidence of your capabilities in co-design.
- In the third and final milestone meeting you will describe how success should look for each capability and provide practical evidence of your capabilities to complete the Micro-Credential in Co-Design for Diversity and Inclusion.

These meetings will be held in safe, welcoming, and inclusive spaces either in person or online.

Each milestone meeting will last for about 2 hours. There will be break times in the workshops where you will be given some refreshments.

What will you do in between milestone meetings?

In between the milestone meetings you will do some activities that show evidence of what your skills and abilities are. We will call these sorts of meetings 'satellite meetings' (because they take place outside the milestone meetings). For example, you may be taking photos, videos, audio recording/s or writing about your skills. You will be assisted by your support worker/HWLLLEN staff in discussing how to curate or select evidence that you want a potential employer to view.

Who will be in the milestone meetings with you?

The RMIT researchers, your support worker (if you have one) and Fiona from the HWLLLEN.

• How would you benefit from being part of the project?

By you taking part in the project, which is attending the three milestone meetings and completing the activities in between milestone meetings, you will;

1. Receive a Micro-credential in Co-design for Diversity and Inclusion. This is a 'mini-qualification' that proves that you are capable of working with other people to achieve a shared goal.
2. Be paid *\$1000 for your participation in recognition of your hard work on completion.
3. Contribute to important research and information that can be used to support more young people in the future.

What else is important for you to know about being part of the project

To help everyone to communicate with each other in a fair and respectful way during our milestone meetings we will create a **Code of Conduct** together in the first of these. **A Code of Conduct** is like a written agreement where all the participants come up with ideas about how we can all work well together.

There will be up to 6-15 key support workers, 3-4 employers involved with HWLLLEN and 9-15 neurodiverse young people participating in this project. We will ask employers to review and comment on the evidence and its usefulness in terms of profiling your strengths and capabilities.

What will happen to information about you?

During the project, the researchers from RMIT will be collecting lots of information. This will include some things that are discussed in the:

- Milestone Meetings
- work that you produce in between the Milestone Meetings.

This information will include:

- written notes of what is discussed
- and may include audio and video recordings and photos of you.

If you share any sensitive information that you don't want to be collected by the researchers, please feel absolutely free to let them know.

We will be collecting information about you via VideoAsk (<https://www.videoask.com/>). This information will include the evidence you are collecting to obtain your micro-credential and your responses to questions about you (where you are from, gender, age, etc.) and about evaluating your progress towards the completion of the micro-credential. You can open VideoAsk on your mobile phone/laptop/computer and answer the questions using video, audio, or text. All the answers from your responses are saved in our VideoAsk account for you to view and reply to at your leisure.

We will collect information that shows your strengths in working with people. We will store this information as evidence that could be made publicly available on the Young People's Sustainable Futures Lab (<https://young-people-futures-lab.org/>) and on Badgr (<https://info.badgr.com/>), a digital badging system that awards badges and verifies and tracks achievements that connects you to new opportunities (and allows you to connect to LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook). We will not make the evidence collected for the micro-credential available without your consent.

Information about you (where you are from, gender, age, etc.) will be identifiable (meaning people can recognise you). However, the information about you can be de-identified (meaning people will not be able to recognise you) by the researchers if your responses are sensitive in nature. In these instances, we will contact you again to ask for your consent before publishing any deidentified information.

Time Commitments

Approximately 12 hours in total for Milestone meetings and Satellite meetings plus additional time for participation in your chosen related activities over a 3-month period.

Payment Conditions

As a participant you will be paid in instalments, based on how often you attend workshops and completing the activities. Please note that if you decide to drop out of the program you will only be paid an instalment amount based on your attendance at that point.

| Payments Schedule | Amount \$ | What do you have to do to receive payment? | When will you receive payment? |
|--------------------------|------------------|--|--|
| Payment 1 | 175.00 | Attend Milestone meeting 1 | After Milestone meeting 1 |
| Payment 2 | 175.00 | Attend Milestone meeting 2 and provide evidence of your activities after workshop 1 | After Milestone meeting 2 |
| Payment 3 | 175.00 | Attend Milestone meeting 3 and provide evidence of your activities after workshop 2 | After Milestone meeting 3 |
| Payment 4 | \$475.00 | After Milestone meeting 3 evidence of your completed activities uploaded to Young People Sustainable Futures website (https://young-people-futures-lab.org/), and to the Badgr (https://info.badgr.com/) digital micro-credential. | Within 1 month after Milestone meeting 3 |

We hope being part of the program will be fun, interesting, and rewarding for you!

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

What is RMIT?

RMIT stands for the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and is a university based in Melbourne. It started in 1887 and is one of Australia's original educational institutions.

What is the HWLLEN?

HWLLEN stands for the Hume Whittlesea Local Learning and Employment Network.

What is a micro-credential?

A micro-credential is a digital mini qualification that demonstrate skills, knowledge, and/or experience in each subject area or capability. It can be used to demonstrate your achievements when you apply for a job.

What is Badgr?

Badgr is a digital badging system that can verify and track your achievements and will provide you with your digital micro credential at the end of the program. You can look at the platform here <https://info.badgr.com/>

What is VideoAsk?

VideoAsk (<https://www.videoask.com/>) is a web application that works on Android, and there's an iPhone application too. It allows you to give answers to pre-recorded questions and to do this using text, audio, or video options.

What is the Young People's Sustainable Futures Lab (YPSFL)?

YPSFL (<https://youngpeoplesfutureslab.org/>) is a collaborative research lab that brings together researchers and other stakeholders to co-design young people's sustainable futures in times of crisis and disruption. The starting point for YPSFL is situated in our concern with, and for, young people's wellbeing and their education, training, and employment pathways in these unfolding crises. Content related to your portfolio for the Micro-Credential in Co-Design for Diversity and Inclusion will be posted on the following website: <https://youngpeoplesfutureslab.org/project/whittlesea/>