

[For your reference only] Study Information and Assent (Student)



DRivers, Enablers, and pathways of Adolescent developMent in Singapore (DREAMS)
NTU-IRB ref no. IRB-2023-411

You are invited to participate in this **Ministry of Education (MOE)** and **National Institute of Education (NIE)** study on **“DRivers, Enablers, and pathways of Adolescent developMent in Singapore (DREAMS)”**. The Principal Investigators (PI) of this study comprise a team of researchers from the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University. These include Prof Kenneth Poon (Lead PI), Dr Melvin Chan, Dr Trivina Kang, and Dr Tan Ser Hong (co-Lead PIs), as well as Prof Rebecca Ang, Dr Imelda Caleon, Ast/Prof Azilawati Jamaluddin, Dr Fannie Khng Kiat Hui, and A/Prof Arief Liem (Project PIs). This study will involve 9,000 students from up to 147 Secondary schools.

You are invited to take part in this study because we would like to learn more about your social and academic experience in school, your relations with others, your lifestyles and preferences, your goals and aspirations for the future and related topics relevant to adolescent development. There will also be general questions about your family background, teachers and school. Your views will provide valuable insights about your educational experiences, the opportunities you have had or the challenges that you may have faced.

You will be asked to complete one or two surveys every year until the end of Secondary school. Each survey can be completed within the duration of 30 to 45 minutes. You will receive e-vouchers or vouchers (or equivalent) (worth \$5 - \$10) for each set of questionnaires and tasks completed; to keep each set short, there may be more than one set administered per year. If it is an e-voucher, it will be emailed to you based on the email address you provide in the survey. You may also be receiving goodie bags as part of our engagement events.

As you were a participant in the earlier Singapore Kindergarten Impact Project (SKIP) and/or Singapore Kindergarten Impact Project Follow-up (SKIP-Up) Study, your surveys will include an additional set of questions to allow us to understand development in cognitive and socio-emotional skills from childhood to adolescence. You will receive an additional token of up to \$10 for completing the additional set of questions. After you finish the main survey, you will be invited to participate in a bonus survey. The bonus survey may include a segment requiring a short Zoom session (~15 minutes) for the project team to administer game-like tasks to you. No recording will be made during the session. You can decline to participate in this bonus survey or the Zoom segment when you receive the invitation following the main survey. If you choose to participate, you will receive an additional token of appreciation (usually a voucher) not exceeding \$10 for completing this bonus survey. In addition, students participating in DREAMS who were also participants of the earlier SKIP and/or SKIP-Up studies will be eligible for our annual participant appreciation lucky draw, in appreciation of your support all these years. This draw will be held in December of 2024, in October of 2025, and in July of 2026. Participants will be entered into the lucky draw for the corresponding year that they participate in the DREAMS survey (the 2024 survey refers to one conducted in the second-half of 2024). You will have different numbers of chances to win in each year's draw based on the number of surveys you participated in/completed out of the SKIP, SKIP-Up, and the current DREAMS studies. When you

participate in the DREAMS survey for the year, you will receive 1 chance in the lucky draw. By fully completing the DREAMS survey for the year, you will get 5 additional chances. You will also receive 3 additional chances if you complete the bonus survey for the year. In appreciation of your support all these years, you will also receive additional chances for participation in previous years' DREAMS secondary school surveys (Year 1 refers to Oct 2023 to Feb 2024, Year 2 refers to Jul 2024 to Nov 2024, Year 3 refers to 2025, Year 4 refers to 2026): 1 additional chance for participating in each previous year's survey and 5 additional chances for completing each previous year's survey. If you had participated in the SKIP study (2014-2017), you will each get 1 additional chance in the lucky draw. If you had participated in the SKIP-Up study (2021-2022), you will each get 1 additional chance in the lucky draw. The cut-off date for completing the survey is on the 30th of November 2024, 30th September in 2025, and 30th June in 2026. The list of lucky draw entries will be compiled. Each chance represents one entry in this list. To ensure a fair and unbiased selection, we will use a reliable randomization process, to draw the winners at random. This ensures that everyone has a fair chance of winning. Prize recipients will be announced in December of 2024, October of 2025, and July of 2026 and winners will be contacted via email and/or phone. Parents and students can come down to NIE to sign for their prizes. Alternatively, students may choose for us to meet them at their Secondary School (i.e. the project team member goes down to the school to deliver the prizes to them) for collection. Parents can arrange for their child/ward to collect the prize on their behalf, and should provide an official email/letter informing the team that their child (name & class) will collect the prize on their behalf. We must receive your acknowledgement of prize collection within 14 days, and e-vouchers (if any) must be collected within 14 days. After 14 days, a new winner will be randomly drawn from the remaining entries for unclaimed prizes. Please refer to the lucky draw flyer provided separately for further details. Data collected from the current DREAMS study will be used together with the data collected from the SKIP and SKIP-Up studies. You will also be invited to register your interest to participate in special events for our participants (subject to availability and parental consent). More information on these events will be provided at a later time.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary, and you have the right to withdraw from the study at any time without any penalty. You may skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

There are no risks to students participating in this survey beyond those that exist in daily life.

Your participation in this research will be kept confidential and survey data will be averaged and reported in aggregate. However, we may need to share your information and responses with your parents/guardians and/or school in situations where your safety or that of others is of concern, or when it is required by law. Identifying information (e.g., name, last 4 characters of NRIC, e-mail address) will be asked to ensure accuracy of our records, for linking of data collected at different time points, and for contacting you.

Additional data from government agencies (e.g., students' academic results), where relevant and permitted, may be linked to the anonymized study data to support deeper analysis. The findings of this study may be reported in scientific presentations and reports, but also in social and broadcast media. Your identity will **NOT** be reflected or disclosed in these presentations, reports, and publications. We will also collect your contact information for the study team to contact you for study-related communication and engagement purposes.

Although your participation in this research may not benefit you personally, the findings of the study will be helpful for parents and teachers in generating potentially effective strategies that seek to promote students' academic success and well-being.

Confidentiality of Data:

Your personal data privacy is important to us and we are committed to safeguarding your personal data. Please read this section carefully so that you know and understand the purposes for which we collect, use and disclose your Personal Data. In this form, “NTU” refers to Nanyang Technological University and its successors and assigns.

“**Personal Data**” means data about you which makes you identifiable: (i) from such data; or (ii) from that data and other information which the organisation has or is likely to have access.

By agreeing to participate in this study, you (or your legal representative on your behalf) give consent to the following:

- (i) Collection, use, disclosure and processing of your Personal Data by NTU, for the purposes of the study (the “Purposes”);
- (ii) Disclosure of your Personal Data by NTU to:
 - (1) authorised service providers and relevant third parties, whether located in Singapore or overseas, for the Purposes, as such authorised service providers and relevant third parties would be processing your Personal Data for the Purposes;
 - (2) the Ministry of Education (“MOE”) for MOE’s research purposes (including aggregated analyses) or other purposes permitted by law; and
 - (3) relevant government ministries, statutory boards and/or any other government agencies when requested or when required under relevant legislations.
- (iii) Storage of data in a secure repository server following NIE/NTU policies and PDPA requirements for supporting research, management and educational activities.
- (iv) Data to be combined with other relevant datasets for additional analyses.
- (v) To be contacted and invited to participate in studies related to the DREAMS project.

This is a MOE-contracted study, funded under the Education Research Funding Programme. Data collected are the property of the Ministry of Education, Singapore.

At completion of the research study:

Personal data and data collected for this study will be kept confidential and stored for a minimum of 10 years in a secure environment within NTU. Personal data will remain strictly confidential and will never be published in any research reporting. However, relevant personal data may be preserved and accessed by authorized staff of NIE/NTU to ensure proper research data management and by government officials for aggregated analyses with their own datasets.

Anonymized data will be securely stored on approved NIE repositories to support research, management and educational activities.

If you have questions about this project, you may contact us at +65 67903072 (or email at contact.sgls@nie.edu.sg) or Prof Kenneth Poon at +65 6219 6251 (or email at kenneth.poon@nie.edu.sg).

This project has been reviewed and approved by the NTU-Institutional Review Board. Questions concerning your rights as a participant in this research may be directed to the NTU-IRB at IRB@ntu.edu.sg or call 6592 2495.

Please print a copy of this consent form for your records if you so desire.