

## YOUNG ADULT DEVELOPMENT STUDY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

**Q: What is the purpose of this study?**

A: The purpose of this study is to learn what personal and social factors shape decision-making as youth become young adults. Conducted over five years, this study will look at how different experiences impact youth as they leave high school and transition into adulthood.

**Q: Who is running this study?**

A: This study is being led by [Dr Julie Weatherhead](#) and [Dr Nick Turner](#) from the [Haskayne School of Business](#) at the [University of Calgary](#). It is being administered by [R.A. Malatest & Associates \(Malatest\)](#), an independent Canadian research company that has been around since 1985. This study has received funding from Canada's [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council](#).

**Q: Does this study have ethics approval?**

A: Yes. This study has been approved by the UCalgary's [Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board](#) (REB22-0294).

**Q: Who can participate in this study?**

A: In Year 1, Canadians and permanent residents who 17 or 18 years old, and who are leaving high school in 2023, are invited to participate in the study. After Year 1 (August 31, 2023), no one else will be able to join the study.

**Q: How long with this study take?**

A: This is a longitudinal study, meaning it will run over five consecutive years, with a possible final follow up in Year 10. Each year, participants will be sent an email, inviting them to participate in that year's survey. In Year 1, it will take a bit longer because everyone will be invited to fill out a registration form as well as the survey. In Years 2, 3, 4 and 5, participation will take less time since you won't need to fill out the registration form again.

**Q: How will I benefit from participating?**

A: By participating in this study, you will be part of a small group of young Canadians participating in a groundbreaking study about how youth make decisions as they transition into adulthood. Every participant who completes the survey in Year 1 will receive a \$5 e-gift card. Additional incentives and prizes will be offered in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 – keep an eye on our website for more information!

**Q: Do I have to participate?**

A: No. The decision to take part in this study is completely up to you. We would really like to hear from you, but if you do not want to participate that's okay. You can stop at any time, even after you have started the survey, and you won't be asked to tell us why or give any explanations. There will be no negative consequences.

**Q: Will the information I provide be kept private?**

A: Yes. Malatest abides by Canadian laws that prevent people from sharing personal information. We do not share people's answers in any way that might indicate who answered the questions. Instead, we group information together and report it back that way (called 'reporting in aggregate'), so that no one person can be singled out. That keeps everyone, and the information they provide, safe. More information about how we protect privacy is available on our website.

**Q: I have more questions. Who can I talk to?**

A: Please visit [www.youthshapingfutures.ca](http://www.youthshapingfutures.ca), where you can find lots of information about the study. If you still have questions, please email us at [youthshapingfutures@malatest.com](mailto:youthshapingfutures@malatest.com).