

# Join our advisory group for the Acne Care Online study!



We are looking for people aged 13 to 25 to join our group. We want to hear your opinions and experiences to help us develop a website to help other young people manage their spots or acne. **You can be involved as much or as little as you want and we'll give you vouchers to thank you** for the time you have taken to help us.

**Find out more by reading our FAQs below!**

## What is the project about?

The aim of this project is to develop and test a website to help young people with acne to know how to get and use acne treatments that work best. This could improve the health of people with acne by increasing use of effective treatments and reduce the amount they need to use antibiotics. The reason this is important is because acne is very common amongst young people and often causes distress and low self-confidence. It can lead to permanent scarring, long-lasting dark marks, and depression.



## Why do you need me?



A really important part of this work is understanding how young people use the internet and social media – especially for information about their health. It's really important that we can regularly speak with young people about these experiences as well as speaking to young people who have experiences of spots or acne.

## Who are you looking for to join the group?

We are looking for individuals aged 13-25, to join an advisory group for the study, or to contribute as a one off activity if preferred.

We're especially interested in talking to two groups of people:

- 13-15 year olds - whether or not you have experienced spots or acne – no specialist knowledge or previous experience is needed
- 16-25 year olds with experience of spots or acne – no previous experience is needed but we would want to speak to you about your experiences of spots or acne.



## What would I need to do?

We would add your name to our list of contacts and will let you know (via email/phone/message) when there are opportunities to provide input into the study. It would be up to you whether or not you choose to take part in each of these – its fine if you want to do some but not others.

For some meetings you would need access to a computer/ the internet to join online meetings

The types of tasks you might be asked to be involved in include:

- Attending meetings (online or in person) with other young people and members of the research team to discuss topics around acne and using the internet to find health information
- Giving feedback to the study team about websites or documents
- Reading through/ commenting on documents shared via email
- One-to-one meetings with researchers can also be arranged if you'd rather speak to the study team by yourself



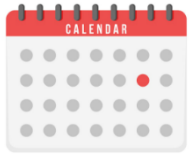
**It would be completely up to you which ones of these you choose to take part in.**

When asking for feedback on a website, the study team would circulate the link and a feedback form the week before the meeting so you can add any thoughts or comments.

Any written materials or images will usually be provided in a word document or pdf format.

There might be opportunities to contribute to discussions via email in between meeting times.

## How long will the project last?



The project will last five years in total and there will be various opportunities to contribute throughout this time. However, you can choose how much you wish to stay involved on an ongoing basis, or if you would prefer to be involved only in certain activities.

## How often will meetings be?

We are likely to hold meetings every two-three months in the first year of the project (between July 2022 and July 2023). Meetings will usually be between 60 and 90 mins. These meetings will mostly be held remotely (e.g., via phone or Teams), but there may sometimes be opportunities to meet in person if preferred.

## How and where will meetings be held?

- Online meetings will be held on Microsoft Teams and can be attended free of charge from any device, whether or not you have a Microsoft teams account.
- If you attend a meeting in-person you will be given reasonable travel expenses.
- Meetings held in-person will also have the option of joining online wherever possible.
- If meeting organisers are made aware of any mobility issues, meetings will be held in wheelchair accessible venues with disabled toilet facilities.

## What's in it for me?

You will be fully reimbursed for any time you give up for your involvement in this work. Most of the work you might be involved in for this study can/will be carried out by phone calls or via Microsoft Teams, so there are unlikely to be additional expenses (e.g., travel). However, if you do need to claim reasonable expenses (e.g., for travel) the study team will give you expense claim forms and let you know how to complete and submit these to make sure you get payment.



It may also be an interesting opportunity for you to make sure the research team take into account your voice and experiences. It is possible you may also learn new information and advice about spots or acne.

## How will I be paid for my time?

We will repay the time you spend being involved in the study with gift vouchers. The amount will depend on the type of activity you are involved in and how much time it takes.

For example:

- For reading and commenting on a short document that takes about half an hour or less - £12.50
- For involvement in an activity (e.g., a meeting) that lasted about one hour, and did not involve any preparation - £25
- If you do any work before a meeting to prepare (e.g., reading/ making notes on documents) you will be repaid for this time too, up to a pre-arranged limit.

The study team will explain the process of claiming your vouchers before you take part in any activities and will be able to help you if you have any questions.

## Will the information I give be kept confidential?



Feedback you provide will usually only be used in reports in a way that summarises what you have said instead of quoting it directly. We would only use direct quotes with your permission. We would never use your name or identifiable information in any report without your permission.

There is no obligation to be named as a public contributor to the study (e.g., on study websites or documents) if you do not wish to be.

Anything you tell us would stay confidential unless it suggested that you or others may be at risk of harm. In this situation, we would notify appropriate others to provide advice or support as needed.

## Will I need any training?

We do not think that training will be required for the role. However, if you require any help using technology (e.g. access to MS Teams, commenting on word documents using 'track changes') then step by step instructions will be sent via email and researchers will be happy to help by phone or video call.

The study team would let you know about any opportunities for training available via the wider research group and let you know how you could sign up for these if interested.

## Who do I contact if I have any questions?

You can email [acnecare@soton.ac.uk](mailto:acnecare@soton.ac.uk) or contact Rosie by phone call or text message on 07796244593

