



Living with illness or a long-term health condition: sharing your experiences with Medical Sciences students

Are you living with a chronic health condition or disability? If so, would you be willing to talk about your experiences to a pair of Medical Sciences BSc students at the University of Edinburgh?

Each year we ask students in pairs to talk to someone who lives with chronic illness or disability. This forms part of the students' compulsory third year module, Health, Illness and Society (HIS). HIS introduces students to the wider social and ethical aspects of health and illness, including varied experiences of illness, disability and care. The interviews they carry out with people who kindly volunteer are, for many students, the first opportunity they have of exploring such experiences with people first-hand. Students consistently tell us that they learn most from this part of the course, and many previous volunteers have also enjoyed the encounter.

Ideally interviews should take place between **23rd and 27th October 2017**. We can arrange for the interviews to take place at the University's Old Medical School in Teviot Place or other University, NHS or community venues across Edinburgh. Students could also interview you at your workplace if a private space is available. Unfortunately students are not able to interview people in their homes, and neither can they interview anyone under the age of 18. We will pay travel expenses and can arrange taxis for interviewees who cannot easily travel, or parking spaces at Teviot Place. We can arrange a room which meets any access needs you may have.

Interviews usually take about an hour. Students will ask you to tell them about your experiences, including:

- some background to your life story
- diagnosis and any ideas you have about the cause of your condition, if relevant
- how your experience of illness, disability or caring affects your family and social life and work
- Your experience of medical and social care

The interviews form the basis of a course assignment, and students may also draw on material from their interviews in class discussion. However, we strongly emphasise to students the importance of respecting confidentiality and work with them to carefully anonymise any material they use in writing or discussion.

Most students are in their early 20s, and plan to work as doctors, nurses, public health practitioners, research scientists or in other health-related occupations.

Please contact Judith Sim, Course Organiser of the Health, Illness and Society course, Biomedical Teaching Organisation, University of Edinburgh (jsim1@staffmail.ed.ac.uk) or Mary Cummings, Course Administrator on 0131 651 3094 or mary.cummings@ed.ac.uk