

Information for participants invited to participate in (social) scientific research
Self-efficacy of academic teachers in different teacher tasks
31-08-2021

Dear academic teacher at Utrecht University,

We would like to invite you to participate in our study about self-efficacy of academic teachers. The purpose of this study is to investigate self-efficacy of academic teachers in a variety of teacher tasks. The study has been approved by the Ethics Review Board of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences at Utrecht University (#21-0291).

Study design

Our study focuses on academic teachers that have taught at least one course at university level and that either (1) have not obtained their Basic Teaching Qualification (Basiskwalificatie Onderwijs) or (2) obtained their Basic Teaching Qualification less than one year ago. In the study we ask you to fill in a questionnaire that consists of three parts. In the first part we ask you about your level of confidence in your ability to carry out a variety of teacher tasks as well as whether you have carried out these tasks before. In the second part we ask you about your professional development goals related to the different teacher tasks for the next two years. In the third part we ask some questions that will help us to get a better idea of the characteristics of the academic teachers that filled in the questionnaire.

Aim of the study

Training and support for academics during their first years of teaching at university can help academics in their professional development as teachers. When designing this training and support it is important to know what teacher tasks to focus on. Research into primary and secondary school teachers during their first years of teaching has shown that it is helpful to offer training and support for teacher tasks that are experienced as difficult. For academic teachers, there is still limited knowledge about what tasks they experience as difficult. To contribute to training and support for academic teachers, this study therefore aims to explore academic teachers' self-efficacy in different teacher tasks. Furthermore, this study aims to explore how self-efficacy of academic teachers in one task relates to their self-efficacy in other tasks.

What is expected of you as a participant?

Participating in this research means that you fill in an online questionnaire. This will take approximately 10-15 minutes.

Advantages and disadvantages of participating

Participating in this study will give you the opportunity to reflect on your self-efficacy in a variety of teacher tasks as well as on your professional development goals related to these different teacher tasks. We have made it possible to download your questionnaire responses, so you can use these for your professional development and/or your Basic Teaching Qualification trajectory. With your participation you also contribute to the scientific knowledge base about university teaching. Furthermore, you contribute to the improvement of training and support of academic teachers at Utrecht University. A disadvantage of participating in this study might be the time investment it requires. An additional disadvantage is that it could be confronting to reflect on your self-efficacy and professional development goals.

Remuneration/Compensation

No compensation will be provided for participation in this study.

Confidentiality of data processing

This study requires us to collect some of your personal data (e.g. your age and at what faculty or teaching institute you work). We need this data in order to be able to better answer the research questions. All personal data will be pseudonymised in the data set, which means this data will receive a code. For example, the faculty or teaching institute where you work will be indicated with only a letter. The key to the code will be stored on a computer which is secured to the highest standards, and only researchers involved will have access to the key. If you have provided informed consent for secondary use of your data, researchers of these studies will also get access to the parts of the key that are relevant for their research questions. Your data will be stored for at least 10 years. This is in accordance with the guidelines provided by the VSNU Association of Universities in the Netherlands. Please refer to the website of the Authority for Personal Data: <https://autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl/nl/onderwerpen/avg-europese-privacywetgeving>, for more information about privacy.

Secondary use of your data

In this questionnaire we gather data that may also be relevant for additional research about self-efficacy, development goals and/or teaching experience of academic teachers. Therefore, we ask your consent for secondary use of your data for other research, for example for bachelor or master theses. Access and storage of the data for this research will adhere to the same procedures that are used in the current study. If you do not give consent for secondary use of the data, your data will only be used for the current study.

Voluntary participation

Participation in this study is voluntary. You can end your participation in the study at any time, without any explanation and without any negative consequences. If you end your participation, we will use the data collected up to that point, unless you explicitly request otherwise.

Independent contact and complaints officer

If you have any questions or comments about the study, please contact the executive researcher, Esther van Dijk (e.e.vandijk@uu.nl). If you have an official complaint about the study, you can send an email to the complaints officer at klachtenfunctionaris-fetcsocwet@uu.nl.

If after reading the information letter you want to participate in the study you can access the questionnaire by clicking on the following link: https://survey.uu.nl/jfe/form/SV_4GkgwDq1gHvdcKa. After checking whether you meet our criteria for participation and after you have provided informed consent, you can start to fill in the questionnaire.

With kind regards,

The research team

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