

March 2026

Information Sheet: Questionnaire

Topic: Cariology teaching at South African Dental Schools

Dear Participant,

I, Nurahn Isaacs, am pursuing my Master's degree in the Department of Prosthodontics at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa. I would like to invite you to take part in my research project. Please take time to read the following information carefully, and please feel free to ask questions if anything you read is not clear to you or if you'd like more information.

What is the study about?

The study is to provide an overview of cariology teaching at South African dental schools and the teaching strategies used.

Why are you invited to participate in this study?

You are invited to participate in my study to offer insights and perspectives on cariology teaching at South African dental schools. By gathering input from lecturers involved in cariology teaching, the responses will contribute valuable information that can enhance future curriculum development and teaching methods in the field.

What will you be expected to do in this questionnaire/survey?

As a participant in this questionnaire, you are expected to provide detailed and honest responses regarding your knowledge, experiences, opinions and practices in cariology teaching.

What are the potential risks involved in this study?

The risks involved in this study are minimal, however, concerns regarding confidentiality, data privacy or profession reputation may pose a concern. These risks will be mitigated by ensuring confidentiality and anonymity. Individual identities will not be linked to specific responses and personal information of participants will not be collected or stored. The study will clearly state how the data will be used and shared, and will emphasise that the findings will be presented in a consolidated form, thus, further protecting the participants'

identities. Voluntary participation and informed consent will be applied, and the participants will be made aware that they may withdraw at any time without any consequences.

What are the potential benefits involved in this study?

Cariology teaching and training is a fundamental element within the undergraduate dental curriculum to prepare future dentists to address, manage and treat dental caries and disease on a global scale. A well-rounded, evidence-based dental curriculum is imperative in developing a competent, ethical and knowledgeable dental graduate who is capable of delivering safe, efficient, equitable and professional care. This research can aid curriculum improvement by identifying gaps, offer insights to enhance teaching strategies and can facilitate further research in dental education.

What Covid 19 Protocols are in place? (If applicable)

N/A

Will my details be kept confidential?

Yes.

In terms of the requirements of the Protection of Personal Information Act (Act 4 of 2013), please note additional information:

What type of personal information will be collected?

Participants will be recognised by their dental school/university only. No personal information will be collected.

To ensure anonymity, your name will not be included or recorded on any data sheets. All information/data will remain the intellectual property of UWC.

Who at UWC is responsible for collecting and storing my personal information?

Dr Nurahn Isaacs will be collecting and storing all information.

Who will have access to my personal information outside of UWC?

No one outside of UWC will have access to your personal information.

How long will my personal information be stored?

Electronic data will be kept on the researcher's password protected computer for five years and deleted thereafter. Hard copies will be kept in a locked drawer for five years and deleted thereafter.

How will my personal information be processed?

The data will be transferred to the researcher's password protected personal computer. The data gathered will only be used for academic purposes, and the research findings will be published in a peer reviewed publication.

Who do I contact for further information?

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me, Dr N Isaacs, on my cell phone (0839435233), or via email (nuisaacs@uwc.ac.za). Alternatively, you may also contact my supervisor Professor RZ Adam (rzadam@uwc.ac.za), or my co-supervisor Dr F Karjiker (fkarjiker@uwc.ac.za), in the Department of Prosthodontics, University of the Western Cape (UWC).

To report any serious or adverse effects emerging from this research, please contact the ethics committee below:

Biomedical Research Ethics Committee
Research and Postgraduate Division
University of the Western Cape
Private Bag X17
Bellville 7535
Tel: 021 959 4111
Email: research-ethics@uwc.ac.za

This information sheet is for you to download so that you can be aware of the purpose of the study. With your signature on the attached consent form, you indicate that you understand the purpose of the exercise.

