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You are being invited to participate in the following research study…

**A Qualitative exploration of adults’ use of upper limb prosthetics devices, for participation in sport and physical activity.**

Before you decide whether you want to take part in the study, I would like you to know why it is being done and what would involve for you. You may discuss it with others if you wish. Please consider whether you wish to take part in this research study or not. Please read the following information carefully and let me know if you have any questions.

**Purpose of research**

This research is part of my MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre-Registration) degree dissertation at the University of Plymouth.

The aim of this research is to explore the lived experience of adults who use or have used upper limb prosthetic devices, to participate in sports and sports related activities. The researcher aims to gain an understanding of how upper limb prosthetic devices facilitate participation in sport, for individuals who have an upper limb difference or amputation.

**Why is this study needed?**

Participation in meaningful activity (occupations) such as sports is important for positive health and wellbeing. Prosthetic centres can provide prosthetic devices for individuals with a limb difference or amputation, to facilitate participation in sports activities. However, there is limited information/ evidence on the perspectives of the individuals who use these devices. Therefore, this study aims to gain an understanding of service user perspectives and contribute to the evidence base in this field.

**Who can participate in this study?**

Anyone who meets the following criteria is eligible to participate;

* Over 18 years old
* Based in the UK
* English speaking
* Has an upper limb amputation or congenital (from birth) limb difference, affecting one or both hands/arms
* Uses or has used a prosthetic device for participation in sports or sports related activities

**What is expected of me?**

If you choose to participate, you will be required to complete the attached consent form and return it to [Josephine.evans@students.plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:Josephine.evans@students.plymouthac.uk). Following completion of this form you will be contacted to arrange an interview date at a time that is convenient for you. Interviews will take place on an online video platform (Zoom) and will be audio recorded. The interview will take between 30 and 60 minutes and will comprise of a discussion about your experience of using a prosthetic device for participation in sports.

**What happens after the interview?**

After the interview the audio recording will be transcribed and analysed by the researcher. You will be offered the opportunity to check the transcription of the recording, if desired. The researcher will then identify themes emerging from the interviews. Following completion of the study, the researcher intends to disseminate the anonymised study findings via publication in a relevant academic journal. Also, it is hoped that the findings from this study will be disseminated through presentations at relevant conferences.

**Data confidentiality**

Plymouth University is the sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. We will be using information from you in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information. The University of Plymouth will keep identifiable information about you for 10 years after the study has finished.

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally identifiable information possible to protect your anonymity. All personal information provided will be kept confidential and data from the interviews will be anonymised with the use of pseudonyms. You will be offered to opportunity to choose your own pseudonym, if desired.

All information collected about you during the course of this research will be kept strictly confidential. Your records may be looked at by the research team involved in this study and the monitoring or audit team approved by the university. All information will be stored electronically using OneDrive and only accessed using password protected personal computers, in a document file that is also password protected.

Your name will be stored separately from the other information you supply during the project so that you cannot be identified from your study records.

For more information regarding data confidentiality, you can access the research participant privacy notice for Plymouth University: <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/your-university/governance/information-governance/privacy-notices>. If you have a general question about how your personal information is used by the University, wish to exercise any of your rights or make a complaint about the way you believe your data is being processed, please contact the University’s Data Protection Officer: dpo@plymouth.ac.uk.

**What if you no longer want to participate?**

You have the option to participate or not. Your participation is voluntary. If you choose to participate, you may keep this information sheet and you will be required to complete and return the consent form prior to the interview. You may withdraw at any time up to 14 days following the interview. You will not be able to withdraw your data beyond 14 days after the interview, because the data will already be included in the analysis. You are under no obligation to provide a reason for your withdrawal and should contact either Josephine Evans (principal investigator) or Melissa Jacobs (Supervisor), details are found at the bottom of this form. Withdrawal will not affect any future relations with the researcher and/or the University of Plymouth.

**Can I find out more before I decide whether to participant?**

Yes of course. It is important that you have the chance to think carefully about whether you would like to participate. Please contact Josephine Evans (principal investigator) by email if you require any additional information to assist you in making your decision.

**Additional information**

If you require any support with additional needs these can be discussed nearer the interview date. It is recommended that participants seek a quiet/ private environment and/ or use headphones for the purpose of Zoom interviews.

If you experience distress as a result of the interview and wish to seek support, support can be found through the researcher’s supervisor Melissa Jacobs at melissa.jacobs@plymouth.ac.uk. Melissa will signpost you to appropriate support and guidance.

**I would like to participate, what do I do next?**

If you would like to take part in this study, please complete the attached consent form and return it to the principal investigator.

**Contacts for further information:**

Josephine Evans Melissa Jacobs - Supervisor

Principal Investigator Lecturer in Occupational Therapy

Josephine.evans@students.plymouth.ac.uk melissa.jacobs@plymouth.ac.uk

                                                                   Tel: 01752 588897

If you wish to formally complain, you can do so by contacting the Faculty of Health Research Ethics and Integrity Committee Admin Team on [fohethics@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:fohethics@plymouth.ac.uk).