

Autism CanTech!

Title of Study: Autism Cantech! Overcoming Barriers to Employment in the Digital Economy

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What is a research study?

A research study is a way to find out new information about something. You do not need to be in the research study if you don't want to.

Why are you being asked to be part of this research study?

You are being asked to take part in this research study because we are trying to learn more about the barriers you have regarding employment and what supports would make it easier for you to apply and keep a job. We are asking you to be in the study because we want to hear directly from you about your point of view. About 60 Autistic Youth will be in this study. What you share may also be used anonymously in future ACT! Studies.

If you join the study what will happen to you? (describe what takes place from the ward's point of view)

We want to tell you about some things that will happen to you if you are in this study. We will ask you to answer some questions about what supports you need to get and keep a job in the digital economy. This will take place in two ways: in a group with other Autistic youth or one-on-one with the interviewer. The group with others will take 90 minutes, the interview will take 60 minutes

- We will also ask you to take photos and email them to brooke.leifso@norquest.ca. This will be on a schedule

Will any part of the study hurt?

You might feel uncomfortable or emotional talking about your experiences. In the focus groups, you may also learn things about your peers or your peers about you that makes you uncomfortable. If this happens, we will stop the research and work to provide you with the support that you need.

Will the study help you?

This research will help Autistic youth across Canada gain meaningful employment. It may benefit you directly by helping you get the support that you need to be successful. This is because researchers may be able to respond to the needs that you express.

Will the study help others?

We hope that this research helps you, other Autistic youth and employers to understand barriers to gaining and maintain employment. In turn, we hope to make workplaces more inclusive.

Do you have to be in the study?

You do not have to be in the study. It’s up to you. No one will be upset if you don’t want to do this study. If you join the study, you can change your mind and stop being part of it at any time. All you have to do is tell us. It’s okay, the researchers and your parents won’t be upset.

What choices do you have if you say no to this study?

This study is extra, so if you don’t want to do it nothing else will change or effect your position in Autism CanTech!

Do your parents know about this study?

This study was explained to your guardians and they said that we could ask you if you want to be in it. You can talk this over with them before you decide. They will also sign a form.

Who will see the information collected about you?

The information collected about you during this study will be kept safely locked up. Nobody will know it except the people doing the research.

The study information about you will not be given to your guardians. Sharing with them is up to you. The researchers will not tell your friends or anyone else.

What if you have any questions?

You can ask any questions that you may have about the study. If you have a question later that you didn’t think of now, either you can call or have your guardian email at brooke.leifso@norquest.ca

Other information about the study.

- If you decide to be in the study, please write your name below.
- You will be given a copy of this paper to keep.

Yes, I will be in this research study. No, I don’t want to do this.

Autistic youth’s name	Signature	Date
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Person obtaining Assent	Signature	Date
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