

Jenny Boucher
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Invitation from the University of Dundee

This message is being sent on behalf of Jenny Boucher, who is a student on the MSc in Educational Assistive Technology course at the University of Dundee. Jenny is looking for participants who may be interested to contribute to a dissertation research project titled:

‘What skills, knowledge and approaches do teachers and other staff in further education settings need to know to be an effective communication partner for students who use AAC (Alternative and Augmentative Communication)?’

The aim is to use the findings to develop a training resource for teachers and other staff working in mainstream and specialist further education colleges to positively influence an AAC users' participation and educational outcome.

Participants must be **student-facing staff members in specialist and mainstream further education colleges in the UK**, who support AAC users as communication partners.

Jenny is looking for 2 respondents from each of the following groups:

- Group 1 - Teachers and teaching assistants in a mainstream or specialist further educational setting college with experience supporting AAC users
- Group 2 - Speech and language therapists (SLT), Communication technicians / Speech and Language therapy assistants in a mainstream or specialist further education college setting with experience supporting AAC users
- Group 3 - Assistive Technologists (AT) working in mainstream or specialist in a further education college setting with experience of supporting AAC users

All participants must also be UK based and aged 18 years old or older to take part in the research.

Participants will be asked to participate in an online 1:1 interview via Microsoft Teams, this will take up to one hour. Interviews are planned to take place during September and October 2026.

If you are interested in taking part in the project, and you meet the inclusion and staff group criteria above, please contact Jenny Boucher via email: 2672623@dundee.ac.uk

You will then receive the Participant Informed Consent Form and Participant Information sheet for completion, to be returned at your earliest convenience.

The first two potential participants that respond from each group will be invited to interview. If additional respondents volunteer to take part, they will be thanked for their time and offered to be sent any research outputs based on this work. The researcher will retain email addresses from any potential participant who wishes to be sent the project outputs. These email addresses will be stored separately and securely from the project data.

At the end of the project the potential participants that provided email contacts will be sent the project reporting, after which time the email contacts will be deleted by the researcher. The expected sample size is 6 people.

The researcher can also be contacted at 2672623@dundee.ac.uk with any questions you might have.

Thank you for considering this request, the researcher looks forward to hearing from you.

Please note: 'What skills, knowledge and approaches do teachers and other staff in further education settings need to know to be an effective communication partner for students who use AAC (Alternative and Augmentative Communication)?' has received ethical approval from the University of Dundee's School Research Ethics Committee (UOD-SSREC-TPG-COMP-2025-022). Communication Matters is not responsible for any aspect of this research study.