



12.1.2026

## INFORMATION SHEET FOR RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

**1. Invitation to participate in research**

We invite you to participate in the IMPACT study, which examines the effects of language proficiency requirements and language tests on adult immigrants and their integration. The study began in 2024. We are asking for your consent to participate in a sub-study of the project, *Kohti YKI-tutkintoa*, which studies preparation for the YKI test and the short-term effects of language proficiency requirements and language tests. The data for the sub-study will be collected during YKI preparatory courses in the spring and fall of 2026. Some of the participants will be invited to share their experiences also after the course has ended. The study will end in 2028.

This information sheet describes the study and what participating in it means for you. The Privacy Notice provides information on the processing of your personal data.

To participate in the study, you must be enrolled in the YKI preparatory course to be held in 2026, which prepares participants for the intermediate level exam in Finnish or Swedish. The study will involve about 40 participants. This is a single study, and you will not be contacted again later in relation to this study.

**2. Voluntary participation**

Participation in this study is voluntary. You can refuse to participate in the study, withdraw from the study or your consent at any time, without stating a reason. This will have no negative consequences for you.

You will not be treated differently in the course if you do not wish to participate in the study, and your decision will not affect your YKI test results.

If you discontinue your participation in the study or withdraw your consent, the data collected about you up to that point will be used as part of the research material when necessary to verify the research results.

**3. Progress of the study**

The study studies preparation for the YKI test as well as the short-term effects of language proficiency requirements and language tests. The study will be conducted between 2025 and 2028. During the study, the researcher will observe your activities on the course, talk with you, and interview you. The study location is the same as the course location. The course location will be determined by the course organizer. The interviews will be conducted in person or remotely, and the time will be agreed upon together. Some of the interviews will be conducted individually and some in small groups. During the course, each participant will be offered the opportunity to take part in the interviews. The interviews will last 30–60 minutes. The interviews will be arranged separately.

The researcher may also ask you to participate in interviews after the course. The interviews will focus on your experiences and goals related to the course content. At the end of the course, the researcher will ask for your permission to send you an interview invitation.

You will also be asked to keep a learning diary. This means that you will take notes during the course. The researcher may also use other material you produce during the course. Your information will be processed confidentially.

#### **4. Possible benefits from the study**

The study will provide new information on the effects of language proficiency requirements and language testing on adult immigrants and their integration. The study gives you the opportunity to share your own experiences and views.

#### **5. Possible risks, harm, and inconvenience caused by the study as well as preparing for these**

Participating in the study will not cause any harm to participants, nor does it involve any particular risks or discomfort. However, the study may bring up experiences, feelings, and memories that cause discomfort. You can tell the researcher at any time if you feel that participation is too stressful for you.

#### **6. Insurance coverage for research participants**

The University of Jyväskylä has insurance for its activities and research participants. The participants are covered for accidents, damages and injuries inflicted due to an external cause. The accident insurance is valid during measurements, measurement visits and trips directly related to them.

If research is conducted remotely, the insurance of the University of Jyväskylä covers only damage directly related to the research task which has occurred during the guided research task. The insurance does not cover accidents that occur during breaks. The insurance of the University of Jyväskylä is not valid in the case of research conducted remotely if a participant's municipality of residence is not in Finland.

#### **7. Compensation for participation and reimbursement of study-related costs**

Participants receive no payment or compensation for possible travel costs for this study. The price of the YKI preparatory course include the necessary materials used during the course as well as taking the YKI test once on an exam date agreed for the course. For the spring course, the exam dates are in March and May 2026, and for the fall course, in the fall of 2026.

#### **8. Funding of the study**

The study is funded by the University of Jyväskylä. Furthermore, in years 2025-2029, the study is funded by the Research Council of Finland.

#### **9. Conflicts of Interests**

The doctoral researcher of the study (Leinamo) has an employment relationship to one of the collaborating educational institutions. The relationship is not related to the YKI preparatory course.

The researcher of the study (Ahola) has an employment relationship to an organization that carries out the YKI tests (University of Jyväskylä). Ahola does not participate in the planning or implementation of the YKI preparatory course or the assessment of the participants.

The researcher of the study (Honko) has assessment rights to the Finnish YKI exams. Honko does not participate in the assessment of the participants.

The study and the researchers have no other conflicts of interest that could affect the study's independence.

## **10. Informing about research results and research outcomes**

The study will yield scientific publications and a doctoral dissertation, conference and seminar presentations, and possibly published research tools and research materials. The participants cannot be identified from the published findings. Further information about the project is available on its website [www.jyu.fi/fi/hankkeet/impact](http://www.jyu.fi/fi/hankkeet/impact).

## **11. The use of research data after the study is finished**

After the study is finished, the research data will be anonymised, which means that any information enabling personal identification is deleted. The anonymised research data and possible research tools will be stored in JYU's JYX service or another appropriate archive from where the data is available by a specific request for research and/or teaching purposes.

## **12. Contact person for further information**

You can ask about the study at any stage. You have the right to check or correct the information you have provided. For further information, please contact:

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If you wish, you can also make a complaint with the Data Protection Officer at the University of Jyväskylä: [tietosuoja@jyu.fi](mailto:tietosuoja@jyu.fi), 04080532967