

## **AUSCAPE'S RESEARCHERS POLICY**

From time to time, Autscope is approached by researchers who either want to advertise for participants to take part in their study or want to come to Autscope to use our participants whilst at the event to further their research.

Autscope recognises the importance of research and welcomes researchers.

However, to protect the Autscope organisation as well as the enjoyment and experience of our participants, particularly at the conference, we request that everybody who wants to advertise their research through Autscope or conduct research at Autscope, complies with this policy.

### **Our policy is:**

To provide a fair policy which is clear and easy to use

To publicise the existence of our Researchers policy

To ensure that everyone who wants to advertise or do research at Autscope is aware of and complies with the procedures in this policy.

To gather information which helps us to improve what we do

### **This policy includes information about:**

1. What constitutes as research in terms of this policy
2. Gathering information to include in your research
3. Using your research
4. How we manage requests to conduct research at an Autscope event
5. Non compliance/termination of the right to conduct research

6. Responsibility
7. Monitoring and learning

## **1. What constitutes as research in terms of this policy**

Research applies to any study that requires other people to take part including answering questionnaires, offering an opinion or monitoring behaviour. The person conducting the study may or may not be a qualified researcher and could be doing this as an individual with an interest or as part of academic study. The researcher may also offer expenses or a financial or other incentive for people to take part or expect people to take part for free.

## **2. Gathering information to include in your research**

If you want to advertise your research using channels provided by Autscope, eg. A poster at an Autscope event or on our mailing lists you must first ask permission from the Event manager (for live events) or the Lists co-ordinator (for mailing lists), who will decide if your research is in line with our ethos.

If you attend Autscope personally, it is very important that you are aware that in order to keep Autscope a safe, comfortable space for participants we have rules to protect people who do not wish to interact with researchers and those who do not wish to be photographed/filmed.

We have a general rule that anyone wishing to speak to people at Autscope events with the intention of gathering material for research, should do so on an 'opt in' basis.

If you want to display a poster inviting people to take part in your research after the event, once you have permission from the Event manager you will need to purchase a table/poster space when you register.

If you want to conduct research at the event, once you have permission from the Event manager they will discuss with you any requirements you may have eg. A quiet room and make the necessary provision. They will also ensure participants are aware, through information you provide;

1. Who you are and who you are conducting the research for
2. What you are researching
3. Where the research will be used
4. How you will conduct your research eg. Question and answer, a questionnaire, an experiment, a test etc

5. Whether it's anonymous or what personal details they will have to give
6. If they have to sign anything (Note: this should be shown to the Event manager and agreed before consent to conduct research is granted)
7. How they can withdraw their consent at a later date.

Autescape also has a policy that participants do not have to disclose any diagnosis. Autescape is open to anybody including neurotypical people and those that self identify as neurodivergent and are possibly waiting for a diagnosis. Please respect the fact that some participants may also not wish to disclose their diagnosis outside of Autescape.

We hope that you understand the need for these stringent rules to protect our participants, some of whom have strong needs in this area. That said, however, there are usually other participants who are quite happy to take part in research.

### **3. Using your research**

If you mention Autescape, we ask that you make it clear that you have conducted your research at Autescape, but not on behalf of Autescape.

Please also make it clear that Autescape is run by autistics for autistics (unique amongst UK autism conferences) and is a non-profit organisation with all work carried out by volunteers.

Please include our website address ([www.autescape.org](http://www.autescape.org)) which will allow people to find additional information or contact us. You may also find this a helpful source of information for yourself, particularly the frequently asked questions ([www.autescape.org/faq](http://www.autescape.org/faq)).

### **4. How we manage requests to conduct research at an Autescape event.**

Anybody who wishes to conduct research at an Autescape event or have a poster to advertise for research participants after the event, should contact the Event manager via [info@autescape.org](mailto:info@autescape.org).

You will be asked to agree to abide by the terms of this policy.

Anybody who wants to advertise their research through our mailing lists should first contact the lists coordinator via [moderator@autescape.org](mailto:moderator@autescape.org).

## **5. Non Compliance/Termination of the right to conduct research**

If it comes to the attention of the Event manager that you are not conducting your research under the agreed terms then the Event manager has the right to withdraw your permission to conduct research at the event.

The board and the Event manager also reserve the right to cancel your right to conduct research at an Autscope event for other reasons e.g we become aware of further information that may lead us to think your research is not compatible with our ethos or, we need the space allocated to you for another reason at short notice.

## **6. Responsibility**

Overall responsibility for this policy and its implementation lies with the board of trustees.

## **7. Monitoring and Learning**

This policy will be reviewed periodically to identify any changes in law and regulations

### **Review**

This policy is reviewed regularly and updated as required.

**Adopted on 31st July 2024**