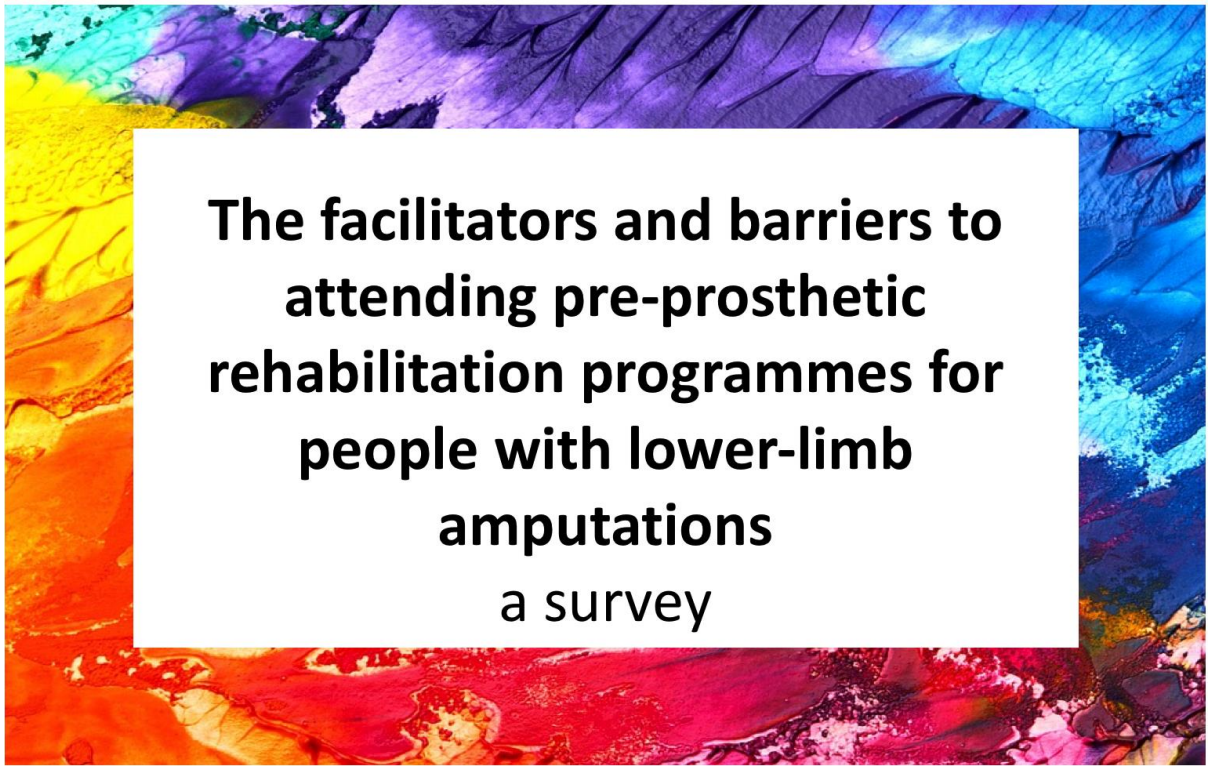

You are invited to participate in the above study if:

⇒ You are a civilian, lower limb amputee aged 18 and over

AND

⇒ You either are attending, or have attended, pre-prosthetic rehabilitation classes

Please, kindly read the following information as well as the participant information sheet, should you wish to participate.
For further details, please contact Renata Bucková on **01905 571 139** or email 1729147@brunel.ac.uk
The link to the survey can be accessed via your charity.

Thank you!

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this survey, which explores the facilitators and barriers to attending rehabilitation classes during the specific period between lower limb amputation and prosthesis fitting. This period, here referred to as ***pre-prosthetic rehabilitation***, usually lasts for up to 8 weeks, but could vary in length.
This rehabilitation phase usually starts on the hospital ward, following surgery, and continues on an outpatient basis, once the person is discharged from hospital. However, on some occasions a prosthesis cannot be fitted by the end of this rehabilitation phase, and this could be for a variety of reasons.

Your thoughts and opinions are invaluable and the results of this study will be used to improve the quality of lower limb amputee rehabilitation services.

This survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. All responses will be anonymous and no personal information is required. Before you start completing the survey, please ensure that you have read and understood the information about the study, which can be found below. Please note that **consent to participate is implied by you completing and submitting the survey**.

If you find any of the questions distressing, or otherwise upsetting, please contact your charity to seek support, or call the Samaritans helpline on **116 123**, should you need it.

College of Health and Life Sciences
Department of Clinical Sciences

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

The facilitators and barriers to attending pre-prosthetic rehabilitation programmes for people with lower limb amputations – a survey

An invitation to participate

You are being invited to take part in this study. Before you decide on whether you would like to participate, it is important for you to understand why this research is being conducted and what it will involve. Please take time to read the below information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish, or contact the researcher on the details provided, should you have any questions. Take time to decide whether or not you would like to participate.

What is the purpose of the study?

This study aims to identify factors affecting attendance of the rehabilitation classes during the period between the lower limb amputation and a prosthesis fitting. This period, here referred to as ***pre-prosthetic rehabilitation***, usually lasts for up to 8 weeks, but could vary in length.
The purpose of this study is to gain a better understanding of the reasons why people either attend or do not attend classes during this rehabilitation stage, so that the quality of service provision can be improved.

Why have I been invited to participate?

You have been invited because you are a lower-limb amputee who either is attending, or has attended, the pre-prosthetic rehabilitation programme. Given your experience of attending these classes, your views, opinions and perceptions are invaluable as part of this research.

Do I have to take part?

Participation in this research project is entirely voluntary. Please note that consent to participate is implied by you completing and submitting the questionnaire. Please indicate that you have read and understood the information provided here by ticking the box at the top of the questionnaire.

What will happen to me if I take part?

You will be asked to complete either a printed or electronic (online) questionnaire. Please ensure you only complete **one** version of the questionnaire, which will have 16 questions. The questionnaire should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. The **electronic** questionnaire can be accessed on your charity social media site, such as Facebook. After submitting, the questionnaire will be forwarded to the researcher's secure Bristol Online Surveys account for analysis.
The **printed** questionnaire with envelope can be collected from your charity. Once completed, please drop the sealed questionnaire into the box located at your charity reception area. The questionnaires will then be sent to the researcher at Brunel University for analysis.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

It is possible that some questions could cause you distress, as they might remind you of potentially unpleasant experiences associated with attending the rehabilitation programme. Should this happen,

please seek support through your charity. Alternatively, call The Samaritans confidential helpline on 116 123 to seek further support.
If you have a complaint about the conduct of this study, please contact Prof. Christina Victor at Christina.victor@brunel.ac.uk to raise your concerns.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

All data is anonymous and no personal, or identifiable information is required as part of this study. Please ensure you do not disclose either your own or a third party's personal information anywhere on the questionnaire.
Data from electronic questionnaires will be stored on a Brunel University password encrypted database. Data from printed questionnaires will be stored at Brunel University in a locked cabinet, with the researcher's supervisor. The data related to this research will be stored in compliance with the Data Protection Act (1998) for the next five years, in case the information is required for further research. The names of the participating charities will not be identified anywhere.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The results will be used for the purpose of the Master's degree dissertation in Occupational Therapy. However, they might additionally be disseminated at conferences or published in peer-reviewed publications. A report with the results will be sent to lower-limb amputee charities and NHS amputee rehabilitation services. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the final report, please contact the researcher on **1729147@brunel.ac.uk** or call **01905 571139** and it will be sent to you.

Who is organising and funding the research?

This study is self-funded by the researcher Renata Bucková, a Master's degree student in Occupational Therapy at Brunel University.

Who has reviewed the study?

This study has been reviewed by the College of Health and Life Sciences – Research Ethics Committee.

Brunel University is committed to compliance with the Universities UK Research Integrity Concordat. You are entitled to expect the highest level of integrity from our researchers during the course of the research.

Contact for further information or for clarification about this research:

Researcher:	**Renata Bucková**, MSc Occupational Therapy, Department of Clinical Sciences, email: 1729147@ brunel.ac.uk or call 01905 571139.
Researcher's supervisor:	**Linda Maskill**, Department of Clinical Sciences, College of Health and Life Sciences, Brunel University, email: linda.maskill@brunel.ac.uk or call 01895 274000.

Contact for complaints and questions about the conduct of this research:

Professor Christina Victor, Chair College of Health and Life Sciences Research Ethics Committee Christina.victor@brunel.ac.uk