

# The UvAcare project: intervention - Examining the effectiveness of a web-based intervention for symptoms of depression and/or anxiety in university and PhD students.

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The aim of the present study is to conduct a randomised controlled trial (RCT) to assess the effectiveness of a guided and unguided web based transdiagnostic intervention in treating university and PhD students with depression and/or anxiety.

|                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Ethical review</b>        | Approved WMO    |
| <b>Status</b>                | Recruiting      |
| <b>Health condition type</b> | Other condition |
| <b>Study type</b>            | Interventional  |

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON48683

### Source

ToetsingOnline

### Brief title

The UvAcare project - Intervention

### Condition

- Other condition
- Mood disorders and disturbances NEC

### Synonym

anxiety, mood disorder

### Health condition

psychische stoornissen: angststoornissen en -symptomen

## Research involving

Human

## Sponsors and support

**Primary sponsor:** Universiteit van Amsterdam

**Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** Ministerie van OC&W

## Intervention

**Keyword:** anxiety, depression, effectiveness, university students

## Outcome measures

### Primary outcome

The primary outcome of the RCT are the PHQ-9 for self-reported symptoms of depression and the GAD-7 for self-reported symptoms of anxiety. These scales will be administered at pre-treatment, mid-intervention (5 weeks post-randomisation), 8 weeks post-randomisation and at 6 and 12 month follow-up measurements.

### Secondary outcome

The secondary outcomes are the EQ-5D for quality of life, the Audit-C for alcohol use, the SIAS-6 (social interaction anxiety), the DAST-10 for drug use, the ASM for avoidance support and the Mini-SPIN for social anxiety. In addition, the Client Satisfaction Questionnaire - 8 items (CSQ-8) and medical service consumption (TiC-P) will be monitored. Finally, academic achievement, social isolation, loneliness, cognitive interpretation bias, perfectionism, attachment and burn-out are assessed with self-report measures.

## Study description

## **Background summary**

College years are considered to be a peak period for the first onset of common mental disorders. Recent studies have shown that 12-50% of university students experience one or multiple psychological symptoms. Mental health is associated with physical, interpersonal and cognitive impairments. Universities can use electronic media to screen for students and PhD students with mental disorders but also offer interventions for those in need.

## **Study objective**

The aim of the present study is to conduct a randomised controlled trial (RCT) to assess the effectiveness of a guided and unguided web based transdiagnostic intervention in treating university and PhD students with depression and/or anxiety.

## **Study design**

The present study employs a RCT design.

## **Intervention**

The intervention will be a guided or unguided web-based transdiagnostic intervention targeting symptoms of depression and/ or anxiety. The intervention consists of 7 online sessions with duration ranging from 4 to 7 weeks depending on individual progress. A booster session will be administered four weeks after the completion of the 7th online session.

## **Study burden and risks**

To our knowledge, there are no risks associated with the usage of the web-based interventions.

## **Contacts**

### **Public**

Universiteit van Amsterdam

Nieuwe Achtergracht 129B  
Amsterdam 1018 WS  
NL

### **Scientific**

Universiteit van Amsterdam

Nieuwe Achtergracht 129B  
Amsterdam 1018 WS  
NL

## **Trial sites**

### **Listed location countries**

Netherlands

## **Eligibility criteria**

### **Age**

Adolescents (12-15 years)

Adolescents (16-17 years)

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

### **Inclusion criteria**

- (a) Being enrolled as a student or PhD student at the University of Amsterdam (UvA)
- (b) Being 16 years or older
- (c) Students who experience symptoms of depression (as defined by a score within the range of 15 to 60 points on the Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale [CES-D]) and/or anxiety (as defined by scoring above the cut-off score of 4 on the Generalised Anxiety Disorder scale - 7 items [GAD-7]).

### **Exclusion criteria**

- (a) Co-morbid bipolar disorder and/or psychotic disorder according to the MINI
- (b) Currently receiving psychological treatment for depression and/or anxiety
- (c) Having slow or no Internet connection (e.g. no broadband Internet or something comparable)
- (d) No informed consent before participation

## Study design

### Design

|                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Study type:         | Interventional              |
| Intervention model: | Parallel                    |
| Allocation:         | Randomized controlled trial |
| Masking:            | Open (masking not used)     |
| Control:            | Active                      |
| Primary purpose:    | Treatment                   |

### Recruitment

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| NL                        |            |
| Recruitment status:       | Recruiting |
| Start date (anticipated): | 25-01-2019 |
| Enrollment:               | 1100       |
| Type:                     | Actual     |

### Medical products/devices used

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| Generic name: | iCare Prevent |
| Registration: | No            |

## Ethics review

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Approved WMO       |                    |
| Date:              | 24-08-2018         |
| Application type:  | First submission   |
| Review commission: | METC Amsterdam UMC |
| Approved WMO       |                    |
| Date:              | 07-08-2019         |
| Application type:  | Amendment          |
| Review commission: | METC Amsterdam UMC |
| Approved WMO       |                    |
| Date:              | 16-01-2020         |
| Application type:  | Amendment          |

## Study registrations

### Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

### Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

### In other registers

| Register | ID             |
|----------|----------------|
| CCMO     | NL64929.018.18 |