

Appendix 1

Focus groups INTERVIEW GUIDELINE

OPENING QUESTIONS

Facilitator: Good afternoon! Thank you very much for taking the time to participate in this focus group about the [name of the course] you registered in early in the academic year. Our ultimate goal is to constantly improve the course for the sake of excellence in graduate training in family medicine research. More specifically, we would like to hear from you about your learning experience in this course with hybrid attendance, and your ideas about how it could be improved to better meet graduate students' educational needs in the future.

The discussion will be digitally recorded, and I will also be taking notes to make sure we capture all your ideas during the conversation. I remind you that what will be discussed here will remain confidential, and we guaranty anonymity of all of you as participants in this study.

Do have any question before we begin?

[Signature of consent form]

TRANSITION QUESTIONS

1. OK! You do you know each other, but let's start with a brief introduction of all of you anyways (name, academic background, time in the graduate program, etc.).

KEY QUESTIONS

- 2. How did you hear about the course, and why did you decide to register in?
- 3. Did you have any prior experience of on-line or blended learning course before?
- 4. Were the learning objectives of the course clear for you?
- 5. What do you think about the content of the course? In this regard, do you think that this was a novice, intermediate, or advanced course? Please elaborate.

- 6. A) What are your opinions about the learning process in the classroom when six classmates were participating in via Zoom every week? (In-person students)
 - B) What are your opinions about the learning process when you were synchronically participating in the classroom activity via Zoom every week from overseas? (Virtual students)
- 7. What are your thoughts about the assessment methods used in the course (written assignments, on-line quizzes, oral presentations)?
- 8. What are the aspects (course content, time schedule, technology, context) that you think should be modified in order to improve the course for next academic years?

ENDING QUESTIONS

- 9. Of all the issues we have discussed today, what is the most important to you?
- 10. [After a brief oral summary]. Is this an adequate summary of the discussion held?
- 11. Have we missed anything? Is there anything else we have not discussed yet that you think would be important to know about?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!!