

The effects of Compassionate Mind Training on perceived stress, anxiety and depression in university students

Submission date 12/11/2022	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered
Registration date 23/11/2022	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Last Edited 23/11/2022	Condition category Mental and Behavioural Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> Results
		<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data
		<input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

University students report elevated levels of stress, anxiety and depression. Hence, it is important to study interventions that target stress and promote well-being in this group. The current study aimed to evaluate the effects of a five-week Compassionate Mind Training compared with a five-week affect-focused training in university students on measures of stress, anxiety, depression and self-compassion.

Compassionate Mind Training and affect-focused training are both psychological programs aiming to promote mental health. Compassionate Mind Training focuses on developing self-compassion, whereas affect-focused training primarily entails psychoeducation on affects (the outward display of emotional state).

Who can participate?

Students at university (studying a minimum of 75% of full-time)

What does the study involve?

Participants are randomly allocated to receive 5 weeks of either Compassionate Mind Training (intervention) or affect-focused training (active control). Compassionate Mind Training is closely based on pre-existing Compassionate Mind Training programs widely used in the UK and US. The intervention consists of psychoeducation on compassion and related concepts, as well as applied practice with different exercises. The active control group consists of an affect-focused training program. The program is based on a pre-existing Swedish affect group intervention. The intervention involves psychoeducation on primary affects and applied practice with different exercises.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

A possible benefit for the participants is that they will learn new strategies to deal with stress. A risk with participating in a psychological intervention that includes self-reflection is that it might stir up emotions that can feel overwhelming to some. The interventions were, however, delivered by psychologists (licensed/in training) that were able to provide support when needed.

Where is the study run from?
Uppsala University (Sweden)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
June 2013 to November 2015

Who is funding the study?
Skandia Advisory Board Research and Health (Sweden)

Who is the main contact?
Christina Andersson, christina.andersson@ki.se

Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

Contact name
Miss Christina Andersson

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Additional identifiers

EudraCT/CTIS number
Nil known

IRAS number

ClinicalTrials.gov number
Nil known

Secondary identifying numbers
1

Study information

Scientific Title
The effects of Compassionate Mind Training on perceived stress, anxiety and depression in university students – a randomized controlled trial

Study objectives

It is hypothesized that the Compassionate Mind Training would have beneficial effects on perceived stress, anxiety, depression and self-compassion post-intervention compared with the active control group.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Approved 06/11/2013, The Swedish Ethical Review Authority (Etikprövningsmyndigheten, Box 2110, 750 02 Uppsala, Sweden; +46 (0)10 47508 00; registrator@etikprovning.se), ref: 2013/153231/3

Study design

Single-centre randomized controlled trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Secondary study design

Randomised controlled trial

Study setting(s)

School

Study type(s)

Treatment

Participant information sheet

See trial outputs table

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Stress in university students

Interventions

Participants are randomized in a 1:1 ratio using the online program random.org to receive 5 weeks of either Compassionate Mind Training (intervention) or affect-focused training (active control).

Compassionate Mind Training is closely based on pre-existing Compassionate Mind Training programs widely used in the UK and US. The intervention consists of psychoeducation on compassion and related concepts, as well as applied practice with different exercises. The active control group consists of an affect-focused training program. The program is based on a pre-existing Swedish affect group intervention. The intervention involves psychoeducation on primary affects and applied practice with different exercises.

Intervention Type

Behavioural

Primary outcome measure

Perceived stress measured using the Perceived Stress Scale (PSS14) (pre-and post) at baseline and after 5 weeks

Secondary outcome measures

1. Anxiety and depression measured using the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) (pre-and post) at baseline and after 5 weeks
2. Self-compassion measured by the Self-Compassion Short-Scale (SC-SF) (pre-and post) at baseline and after 5 weeks

Overall study start date

01/06/2013

Completion date

19/11/2015

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

Studying at a university (minimum 75% of full-time)

Participant type(s)

Other

Age group

Adult

Sex

Both

Target number of participants

120

Total final enrolment

59

Key exclusion criteria

1. Not fluent in Swedish
2. Over 15 score on HADS

Date of first enrolment

16/09/2015

Date of final enrolment

01/10/2015

Locations

Countries of recruitment

Sweden

Study participating centre
Uppsala University
Blåsenhus, Psychology Department
Von Kraemers allé 1
Uppsala
Sweden
75105

Sponsor information

Organisation
Karolinska Institute

Sponsor details
Institutionen för klinisk neurovetenskap
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Sponsor type
University/education

Website
<http://ki.se/en/startpage>

ROR
<https://ror.org/056d84691>

Funder(s)

Funder type
Industry

Funder Name
Skandia Advisory Board Research and Health

Results and Publications

Publication and dissemination plan

Planned publication in a peer-reviewed journal

Intention to publish date

01/09/2023

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated and analysed during the current study are available upon request from Christina Andersson (christina.andersson@ki.se).

The type of data that will be shared: all existing data e.g. on item level

Whether consent from participants was required and obtained: Yes, informed consent was obtained.

Comments on data anonymization. Each participant was given a number so the participants were coded.

Any ethical or legal restrictions: No

IPD sharing plan summary

Available on request