Appendix C: Informed Consent (As per HBKU guidelines)

Introduction

You are cordially invited to participate in a research investigation titled "Can Problem Based Digital Health Module Using Virtual Reality Enhance Students Learning Experiences?" You have been selected as a possible participant in this study because we are looking for people who have been enroll in Weill Cornell University and Hamad Bin Khalifa (HBKU) and willing to experience VR. Take as much time as you need to carefully review this document, you are welcome to ask any questions that will help you understand better, and then you can decide.

WHAT IS THE INTENDED OBJECTIVE OF THIS STUDY?

We are testing a technique (wearable device-Virtual Reality (VR) headset) to enhancestudents learning experience.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT THIS RESEARCH STUDY?

It is crucial to comprehend the following information that pertains to all study participants:

• Participating in the study is completely optional and declining to participate will not have any negative impact on their usual rights or privileges.

• The participant may or may not receive benefits from participating, but their involvement can contribute to gaining knowledge that could be beneficial to others.

• The participant has the freedom to withdraw from the study at any

time without facing any consequences.

Further details about the type or scope of the study, including the potential advantages, discomforts, risks, and other relevant information, will be provided below. In the event that new information arises during the course of the research that could impact your decision to participate, we are committed to keeping you informed. We strongly encourage you to inquire about any questions you may have regarding this study, and we will provide you with a thorough explanation before you make a decision to participate.

WHO HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OVERSEEING OR CONDICTING THIS STUDY?

Anwar A. Al-Hwsali MSc student at HBKU will oversee this study with the supervision of Dr. Mowafa Househ, Dr. Arfan Ahmed, Dr. Marco Agus and Dr. Dena Al Thani. The research is being sponsored by the Qatar National Research Fund.

WHO IS INELIGIBLE OR NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE PART IN THIS STUDY?

You cannot be in this study if any of the following apply to you:

- You are less than 18 years old.
- You are not Weill Cornell or Hamad Bin Khalifa master students.

WHAT IS THE ANTICIPATED NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN THIS STUDY?

Approximately 12 individuals are expected to participate in this study.

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS IF I DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY?

If you provide your consent to participate in this study, we will use

a problem-based learning (PBL) approach. You will be presented with a collaborative case study relating to the development of a digital/technological mental health intervention. You will be required, over a 3-to-6-week period, to work to develop and design a prototype for a mobile health application. Each class session will last between 1 and 1.5 hours. A training session for the Virtual Reality collaborationwill be conducted.

HOW LONG WILL I BE IN THE STUDY?

Typically, it will be over a 3-to-6-week period, to work to develop and design a prototypefor a mobile health application. Each class session will last between 1 and 1.5 hours. A trainingsession for the Virtual Reality collaboration will be conducted.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS AND SIDE EFFECTS OF THIS STUDY?

There will be no physical or emotional risks in this study.

ARE THERE ANY BENEFITS TO TAKING PART IN THE STUDY?

There will direct benefits from participating in this study.

WHAT ABOUT PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALLITY?

The data gathered will be kept anonymous, and your name will not be used in any publications that may arise from this study. The original data, i.e., your questionnaire results and theanswers of the interview, will be accessed by myself Anwar A. Al-Hwsali, and my supervisors Dr. Mowafa Househ, Dr. Arfan Ahmed, Dr. Marco Agus and Dr. Dena Al

Thani. We will storeall data collected from you on a password-secured machine belonging to the investigators. We will not record visually or vocally any of the information gained from this study. We may makethe anonymized data available to our research collaborators and, upon request, to the reviewers of our scientific papers.

WILL I BE PAID FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS STUDY?

Students who participate in the study will receive a 500 Qatari riyal stipend. It is importantto note that participants' grades will not be affected if they choose to exit the program at any point.

WHAT EXPENSES OR CHARGES ARE ASSOCIATED WITH PARTICIPPATING IN THIS STUDY?

There is no cost or fee required for your participation in this study.

WHAT ARE THE PRIVILEGES OR ENTITLEMENTS THAT I HAVE AS A PARTICIPANTS IN THIS STUDY?

As a participant in this study, you are entitled to the following rights:

- You are entitled to complete information regarding the essence and objective of the research.
- You have the right to receive a clear explanation of the study procedures, including a comprehensive description of potential risks, discomforts, or benefits that can be reasonably expected.
- You have the right to be informed of any appropriate

alternatives to participating in the study.

- You have the right to ask any questions you may have about the study.
- You have the right to make an informed decision on whether or not to participate in the study, without being misled or deceived by anyone.
- You have the entitlement to obtain a copy of this consent document for future reference.

Signing this form does not waive any legal rights you may have as a participant in this research. You have the option to decline participation or withdraw from the study at any time, as per your choice.

WHOM SHOULD I CONTACT IF I HAVE ANY INQUIRES OR ENCOUNTER ISSUES DO I CALL IF I HAVE QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS?

If you have any inquiries or concerns regarding the study, please reach out to the investigator, Anwar Al-Hwsali, at 77466406.

If you have any inquiries regarding your rights as a research participant, please contact the QBRI IRB Office at the following email address: qbriirb@hbku.edu.qa or the phone numbers: 44540722 / 44542947.

SIGNATURE

As a representative of this study, I have provided a thorough explanation of the purpose, procedures, potential benefits, and risks associated with this research study. Any questions raised by the individual have been addressed to their satisfaction.

_____ _____

Signature of Person Obtaining Consent **Date of Signature**

I have been given details about the aim, process, possible advantages, and hazards of this research. I have been provided with a duplicate of this agreement form and have had the chance to inquire before putting my signature on it. I understand that I can ask further questions at any time. I voluntarily agree to participate in this study and acknowledge that I am free to withdraw from the study at any time without providing justification. I commit to cooperating with the research team.

_____ _____

Participant's Signature **Date of Signature**