

Participant information sheet

Study title

Usability and creativity within student magazine

Research Team

Benjamin Thomas 25772562@edgehill.ac.uk

Invitation

We would like to invite you to take part in a research study exploring the impact of creativity whilst maintaining usability for a student magazine. Before you decide whether to take part, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Take time to read the information that follows carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Inform the research team if you would like more information or if anything is unclear.

What is the purpose of the study?

This magazine aims to inform people, particular students, of news via articles to provide information about support, career events, campus events, societies and student offers. By having all these articles in one place, it makes information identification simplistic. The student magazine utilises elements of creativity without compromising usability, accessibility or performance.

Why have I been invited?

You have been invited to take part in the study because you are a student currently studying at Edge Hill University.

Do I have to take part?

No. It is up to you to decide if you want to take part. Your participation in this study is voluntary. You can change your mind and leave the study at any time without penalty and have your personal contact details deleted. You don't have to answer a question if you prefer not to. To withdraw personal contact details from this study please contact researcher email found above with your name attached.

What will I be asked to do?

For this study, it will be conducted in person and you will be asked to complete a series of tasks such as finding a specific article and creating an account, whilst doing these tasks, you will be asked to verbalise any thoughts about your experience and you will be probed with questions pertaining to the task such as was anything unclear and was it easier or harder than expected. It shouldn't take more than 15 minutes to complete the tasks and you will be recorded during the session for data analysis what will be transcribed and videos deleted promptly afterwards.

What are my choices about how my information is used?

If you take part, you can stop being part of the study at any time and the recording can be stopped and restarted at any time, without giving a reason. Please contact using the details on this sheet and we will destroy any personal contact details you have sent us for the study. We need to manage your information in specific ways for the research to be reliable.

Before the interview you will have an opportunity to ask questions and when these have been satisfactorily answered you will be asked to sign the consent form for face-to-face interviews. If you take part in an interview and later decide to withdraw, you will have 1-week from data collection following the interview to withdraw your interview data. After this time the interview data will have been transcribed and included in the analysis, and it will no longer be possible to withdraw it. For anonymity, data will be transcribed from audio recordings and be classed as participant 1, 2 ext. Should you wish to withdraw interview data please contact *Benjamin Thomas* by email found at the top of the information sheet.

What are the possible benefits or disadvantages of taking part?

You may not benefit directly from taking part; however, you will have the opportunity to contribute to our understanding of how creativity can impact usability for the student magazine.

Risks are minimal however, possible risks include that you may become upset or distressed by reflecting on situations you have experienced. If this happens, we can move on to another question, end the interview or return on another day. We can signpost you to sources of support, which you can also find at the end of this information sheet.

Will my participation be confidential?

Yes, interview data will be anonymised by removing any personally identifiable details during transcription. Your personal contact details will not be passed to anyone outside of the research team. Personal information will only be used to contact you about this study. The interview recordings will be uploaded to the University One Drive as soon as possible after the interview and deleted from the recording device. Following transcription, checking of transcripts and analysis, the recordings will be deleted. When data is being transcribed, the participant will be referred to as a pseudonym such as participant 1. Any paper consent forms will be scanned and stored on the One Drive separately from the interview data. All study data will be stored securely on the University One Drive in a shared folder accessible only by the research team and will be retained for a period of 10 years after which it will be securely deleted. Any personal contact details will be deleted at the end of the study. The procedures for handling, processing, storage and destruction of data from the study are compliant with GDPR and the Data Protection Act (2018).

Confidentiality will only be broken if you share, or the researcher uncovers, information that suggests that an intention to harm yourself or others, or there is disclosure of poor or illegal practice. We will discuss any action to be taken with you and we will adhere to the Edge Hill University safeguarding policy.

We follow the GDPR rules, and the law called the Data Protection Act (2018) which set out rules for how we must handle, process, store and destroy data. The data for this study will be processed on the legal basis of being in the public interest. At Edge Hill University, we are committed to respecting and protecting your personal information and that all data collected is used fairly, stored safely, and not disclosed to any other person unlawfully. Certain individuals from the University and regulatory organisations may look at your anonymised research records to check the accuracy of the research study. The people who analyse the information will not be able to identify you and will not be able to find out your name or contact details. To find out more about how we protect your data and contact details for our Data Protection Officer, please see <https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/about/legal/privacy>. The University is a data controller and, in some instances, may be a data processor of this data.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The results of this study will be used solely for academic assessment as part of a university coursework submission. You will not be identified within the work.

Who has reviewed the study?

The study has been reviewed and approved by the supervisor, David Walsh. If you have any other questions about the study that the researcher cannot answer or has not answered fully, please email david.walsh@edgehill.ac.uk.

Is there someone independent I can talk to about the research or if there is a problem?

If you are unhappy with the research in any way, please tell us. We will try to put things right. If you would prefer to talk to someone outside the research team, or if you are not happy with the way we deal with your problem, you can contact the Secretary of the Science Research Ethics Sub-Committee at SREC@edgehill.ac.uk

Contact Details

If you would like to ask any other questions regarding the research, or what is expected from you, please contact the Secretary of the Science Research Ethics Sub-Committee at SREC@edgehill.ac.uk

Support

Should you require support for stress or anxiety caused by the interview process, support is available from:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/>

<https://giveusashout.org/>

**Thank you for taking the time to read this information
Please keep this information sheet for your information**