

Project title: COURSEWORK WIZARD – DEADLINES VISUALISER**Objectives**

For my master's thesis, I am investigating the usability and effectiveness of **Coursework Wizard**, a micro learning management system (LMS) designed to help students manage long-term coursework. Inspired by Canvas, the website aims to reduce last-minute stress and improve task organisation by combining features of an LMS and a project management tool. Coursework Wizard assists students in managing their time, staying organised, and meeting deadlines. It also enables staff to monitor submissions, identify struggling learners, and provide targeted support.

This investigation focuses on evaluating usability and user experience for both students and staff, assessing how well the platform meets their needs. Through usability testing and feedback from questionnaires, the research aims to understand perceptions of its effectiveness in facilitating coursework management.

The purpose of this information sheet is to inform participants about the research, data collection process, and their requirements for participation. It outlines the study's objectives, types of data collected, and measures to ensure participant safety and confidentiality, as well as the steps for consent and data withdrawal.

Data collection

Participants will be given a task sheet, which they are required to complete in the researcher's presence. During the task, their actions will be observed, and a screen recording will be made to time task completion for analysis purposes. Following the task, participants will be asked to complete an online survey and questionnaire regarding their experience. No personal or sensitive information will be gathered.

The data collected will be **pseudo-anonymised**. Each participant will be assigned a unique participant number, which will be used to identify their data. Personal identifiers such as names will not be collected, and all screen recordings will be linked only to the participant number. Participants will be informed of how they can access or request the removal of their data if they choose to do so.

Experiment Protocol

The testing will take approximately 30 minutes or less. Participants will be required to complete around 7 tasks, each designed to be straightforward and brief. Since the tasks involve navigating a website, they should not take long. However, as the website is hosted locally, there may be slower loading times, which could contribute to

extending the duration of the tasks. If the website proves to be less user-friendly, this may also result in longer completion times.

There are no risks associated with this test. Participants will use a laptop provided by the researcher, ensuring no personal data is shared. The test will take place in a controlled environment at the university, and the website is hosted locally, further minimising potential risks.

If participants decide to take part, they will be required to sign a consent form before beginning the test.

Compensation

This study is being conducted as part of my master's dissertation, and, as such, there will be no financial compensation for participation. Your involvement is entirely voluntary, and I sincerely appreciate your consideration in contributing to this research.

Withdraw

Participants have the right to withdraw from the study at any time without any consequences. If you choose to withdraw, your decision will be respected, and your data will be excluded from the study without affecting your relationship with the researcher or the institution.

What the Participant Needs to Do with the Consent Form

Participants should read the consent form carefully. If you agree to participate, please sign and date the form to confirm your understanding and consent to the research.

What Happens After the Participant Signs the Consent Form

Once you have signed the consent form, it will be securely stored and will not be shared with anyone outside of the research team. You will then be provided with further instructions regarding the study's procedures and what will be expected of you as a participant. If you have any questions or concerns about the study at any time, please feel free to reach out.

For additional details or to request the deletion of your data, you can reach out to km2065@hw.ac.uk or you can contact the project supervisor via h.zantout@hw.ac.uk.

NOTE: Please find below further information on Heriot-Watt Data Protection

1. Data Protection Officer contact details: dataprotection@hw.ac.uk
2. Here is the link to the Heriot-Watt University Privacy Notice for Research Participants: <https://www.hw.ac.uk/uk/services/docs/information-governance/PrivacyNoticeResearch-V4Finalversion.pdf>
3. Data controller is Heriot-Watt University