

INFORMED CONSENT FORM**MCDA 5530 Course Project
Design, Development, and Evaluation of Technologies for Engaging Communities****SMU REB # 17-480 (SMU REB File Number)****Group Members:**

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INTRODUCTION

We are conducting a research study as part of a graduate-level course MCDA 5530 UI/UX Design and Quality Engineering, under the supervision of Dr. Yasushi Akiyama (Mathematics and Computing Science). Our group consists of 5 MSc students. We have no financial interest in conducting this research study. You are being invited to participate in this study, which is described below. This description tells you about the risks, inconvenience, or discomfort which you might experience.

PURPOSE OF THIS RESEARCH

The goal of this study is to gather the information regarding the technology designs that will help people of different levels learn to drive.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO TAKE PART?

You can participate in this study if you want to pass the driver's license test or to improve your driving skills. Although you may not be eligible for our study, you may still be eligible for other group projects that you may be interested in. Thus, if you are interested in connecting with other groups, please contact the course instructor (Dr. Yasushi Akiyama, Yasushi.Akiyama@smu.ca) to find out about the other group projects.

WHAT WILL YOU BE ASKED TO DO?

Each study will consist of 2 phases: In the 1st phase, we will conduct survey by means of questionnaires, to collect data about common issues that the individuals face. Each study session is expected to last less than 10 minutes in the 1st phase. The study sessions will take place in the form of online questionnaires. You will be

asked about issues that you may face in daily life, such as “What are the challenges you face in obtaining a driver's license?”, “What features listed below, do you want to use in the learning app?”, “What is your mode of preference for learning?”.

You may also be invited for the 2nd phase, which will be a usability study, either individually or in a focus group setting to evaluate our proposed solutions. You will be asked to perform simple tasks, such as “Please use this app/system,” and to answer questions regarding the usability of our new technology designs, such as “What did you, or did you not like about our app/solution?” Each study session in this 2nd phase is expected to last 30 minutes to 1 hour. You are welcomed to participate in either one of the sessions or both.

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THIS RESEARCH?

Although you may not benefit directly from participating in this study, the goal of the project is to develop approaches/tools which will have direct long-term benefits for individuals with no Canadian driver's license; individuals with a Canadian driver's license but have limited to no driving experience; individuals with a Canadian learner's permit; out of country individuals with limited to no driving experience; out of country individuals with driving experience outside of Canada. You will also have opportunity to give feedback on this new approaches/tools so that we can improve its functionality/service performance that may benefit you and people in the community in the future.

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL RISKS FOR PARTICIPANTS?

The study will be conducted in an environment that is comfortable to you. Very minor fatigue associated with general use of digital tools is expected. You might also feel slight discomfort in performing tasks that you may not entirely be familiar with and answering questions that you may not know the answers to or feel uncomfortable to answer. If you feel uncomfortable with performing any tasks or answering any questions, or do not wish to answer questions for any other reasons, simply let us know and we will not proceed with those tasks and questions. We are only concerned with the evaluation of our own system, and not your ability to perform tasks or answer questions.

WHAT WILL BE DONE WITH MY INFORMATION AND WHO WILL HAVE ACCESS TO IT?

We are collecting your feedback regarding your experience, and your opinions about the existing and our new approaches to address certain issues that may be observed. Your confidentiality will be of the utmost importance. The study will be conducted by one or two of our group members, and potentially with the presence of one or more of support staff from your organization/institution in order to ensure the safe environment for you. While this may not allow for the complete confidentiality or anonymity, the sessions will only be attended by you, our interviewers, and the staff member(s) with your approval. We will use numbers for any reported data instead of real names, no identifying information will be used in any written, verbal, or presented information without your permission. The study session may be recorded and transcribed, with anonymous code numbers. The recording will be destroyed after they are transcribed.

The collected raw data may be accessed only by our group members and Dr. Akiyama. Once all the data are collected and analyzed for this study, we plan on sharing the summary data and results with our peers in the course and potentially at an academic conference. The summary data will not contain any personal or identifying information. The raw data will be kept and maintained by our group members for this academic year. You may ask to receive the results of this study once completed.

HOW CAN I WITHDRAW FROM THIS STUDY?

Your participation in this study is voluntary and you may withdraw from the study at any time. If you choose to withdraw, your data will not be used in the subsequent analysis and will be destroyed (note that once your data is included in the study analysis, it cannot be retracted). Should you wish to withdraw, you can contact us or Dr. Akiyama.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION? (OR HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS STUDY?)

If you have any questions, please contact either the principal investigators Bijay Khadka by bijaykhadka250@gmail.com or the course instructor Dr. Yasushi Akiyama at yasushi.akiyama@smu.ca.

Certification:

The Saint Mary's University Research Ethics Board has reviewed this research. If you have any questions or concerns about ethical matters or would like to discuss your rights as a research participant, you may contact the Chair of the Research Ethics Board at ethics@smu.ca or 420-5728.

Signature of Agreement (Participant's copy):

Course Project (MCDA 5530)
Design, Development, and Evaluation of Technologies for Engaging Communities
SMU REB # 17-480 (SMU REB File Number)

I understand what this study is about, appreciate the risks and benefits, and that by consenting I agree to take part in this research study and do not waive any rights to legal recourse in the event of research-related harm.

I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I can end my participation at any time without penalty.

I have had adequate time to think about the research study and have had the opportunity to ask questions.

Participant

Signature : _____ Name (Printed) : _____ Date : _____
(Day/Month/Year)

Principal Investigator

Signature : _____ Name (Printed) : _____ Date : _____
(Day/Month/Year)

Please keep one copy of this form for your own records.
(Participants must be provided with a copy of the signed Informed Consent Form.)

Signature of Agreement (Investigator's copy):

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