



**Northumbria  
University**  
NEWCASTLE

**Faculty of Engineering and Environment**

## **Participant Information Sheet**

**Study Title:** The Emergence of AI usage in Employment – Individual research and gathered user data through website-hosted questionnaire, for analysis of the efficiency and sentiment of AI in the workplace.

**Investigator:** Patrick Shaw

You are being invited to take part in this research study. Before you decide it is important for you to read this leaflet so you understand why the study is being carried out and what it will involve.

Reading this leaflet, discussing it with others or asking any questions you might have will help you decide whether or not you would like to take part.

### What is the purpose of the study?

To gather user data on users in employment and/or study perceptions on efficiency and sentiment of AI in the workplace. You will be asked to complete a questionnaire, with binary and multi-choice questions, as well as answer some questions in your own words, on the topic. This data will then be used to create a functional website, by populating a database with the user data gathered from this study. This data will also be used for data analysis within a report.

### Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited to take part as you meet the following criteria:

- You are an adult aged 18+ years,
- **Employed and/or in study.**

### Do I have to take part?

You are under no obligation to take part and you will not experience any loss of benefit or penalty if you choose not to participate.

### What will I have to do?

You will be asked to complete a questionnaire form that will take no more than 5 minutes to complete. Including binary, multi-choice, and questions you can answer in your own words. Your name will not be asked, but you can state your gender, and age range, give your email, pick prefer not to say, or leave those inputs blank.

### What are the exclusion criteria (i.e. are there any reasons why I should not take part)?

You should not take part in this study if:

- You are under the age of 18.
- Considered a vulnerable person.
- Are unemployed and not in study.

### What are the possible disadvantages/risks in taking part?

There is no physical risk in taking part in this study, you can complete the questionnaire on a desktop or phone. The study will take less than 5 minutes of your time, but for whatever reason you can withdraw participation in the study by leaving it incomplete halfway through, or if you have already completed and submitted it, you can be removed by emailing the investigator or supervisor. If you need to take a break from your computer you can complete the study later.

### What are the possible benefits of taking part?

You will be able to give your thoughts on AI in the workplace, which would be an issue that could affect you professionally. Usage and analysis will be used to evaluate possible solutions to the topic as well as the creation of a website that would spread further awareness to the topic.

### Will my taking part be kept confidential and anonymous?

Yes. You will be allocated a unique participant code that will be used to identify any data that you provide. Your name and other personal details will not be associated with your data, for example, any signed informed consent forms will be stored separately.

Only the research team will have access to any identifiable information; paper records will be stored in a locked filing cabinet and electronic information will be stored on the secure University network. This will be kept separate from any data and will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act

### How will my data be stored?

All data will be stored on the University's OneDrive network and where appropriate additionally protected with a password. Any paper data collected will be locked away in a secure folder.

### What will happen to the results of the study?

The results will be used for an undergraduate project that will be examined as part of a BSc/MSc Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence degree. Occasionally some results might be presented at a conference or published in a journal, but they will always remain anonymous. All information and data gathered during this research will be stored in line with the Data Protection Act and will be destroyed after a maximum of 3 years following the conclusion of the study. During that time the data may be used by members of the research team, only for purposes appropriate to the research question, but at no point will your personal information or data be revealed.

### Who is organizing and funding the study?

The present research project has received no funding.

### Who has reviewed the study?

The study and its protocol and its protocol has received full ethical approval from the Department of Computer and Information Sciences ethics committee. If you require confirmation of this, please contact the Departmental Ethics Lead using the details below and stating the full title and principal investigator of the study:

Name of relevant Department Ethics Lead: Dr. James Nicholson  
Department: Computer and Information Sciences  
Address: Ellison B113  
Phone: 0191 227 4959  
Email: james.nicholson@northumbria.ac.uk

How can I withdraw from the project?

The research you take part in will be most valuable if few people withdraw from it, so please discuss any concerns you might have with the investigators. During the study itself, if you do decide that you do not wish to take any further part then please inform one of the research team as soon as possible, and they will facilitate your withdrawal and discuss with you how you would like your data to be treated in the future. After you have completed the research, you can still withdraw your data by contacting one of the research team (their contact details are provided in the last section of the leaflet), give them your participant number, or if you have lost this, give them your name.

If for any reason, you wish to withdraw your data please contact the investigator within a month of your participation. After this date, it might not be possible to withdraw your individual data as the results might already have been published. As all data are anonymous, your individual data will not be identifiable in any way.

What happens if there is a problem?

If you are unhappy about anything during or after your participation, you should contact the principal investigator in the first instance. If you feel this is not appropriate, you should contact the Computer and Information Sciences Departmental Ethics Lead via the contact details given above.

**Contact for further information:**

**Researcher email: patrick2.shaw@northumbria.ac.uk**  
**Supervisor email: roziana.ramli@northumbria.ac.uk**