

PARTICIPATION INFORMATION SHEET

Enhancing academic and practitioner skills in first year Engineers using an active learning course architecture: Online chats and peer learning.

Dear first year engineering student,

The University of Queensland seeks your participation in an online activity run by the course coordinator of ENGG1200 (Associate Professor Carl Reidsema) at the University of Queensland. The purpose of the study is to determine the degree to which using the MOOCchat System for peer learning benefits student learning, and to inform improvements to the system. The study will be completed over the duration of ENGG1200 in the second semester. We would be very pleased if you would agree to be involved in this research.

This activity involves discussing answers to quiz questions using the “MOOCchat System”. During the activity you will be randomly assigned to a small group. You will be presented with a critical reasoning task and asked to respond to it. You will then be given a chance to discuss the question with two other students before being allowed to alter your answer to the quiz question. Finally, you will complete a brief online survey (that will take 2-3 minutes to complete) about your experience with the group chat.

Information on how you interact in the MOOCchat will be collected and analysed. Fake identifications will be given to your data to ensure anonymity. All information will remain completely confidential. No identifying information from any of the data collected will be revealed to the lecturers or to the tutors or published in any project report. All identifiable information will be kept in a locked cabinet or on a password protected secure server, owned by the Faculty and only accessed by authorised researchers. Confidentiality of your participation will be highly secured.

While the MOOCchat exercise is part of the course assessment, you are free to choose not to participate in any of the data collection, and your withdrawal will have no bearing on your marks or on your standing in the course. If you choose not to participate, you will then still be forwarded onto the MOOCchat to participate with the other students as normal. You have the right to withdraw your permission for your information to be used at any time. If you choose to withdraw after the any of the data has been collected, the records which relate to you will be destroyed and not used in the study. To withdraw from the study you need to email the independent researchers/computer staff. The information regarding your withdrawal will only be viewed by independent researchers and computer admin staff. You can download a copy of this form as well as information on how to withdraw on the ‘Research’ page of the course site

We appreciate your participation in this study. We will provide you with a summary of the information gathered using the above methods, if you are interested.

This study has been cleared by the human ethics committees of the University of Queensland in accordance with the guidelines of the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Australian Human Ethics Committee and the Human Research Ethics Committee. You are of course, free to discuss taking part in this study with principal investigator (Associate Professor Carl Reidsema 07 3365 3596). If you would like to speak to an officer of the University of Queensland not involved in the study, you may contact the Ethics Officer on 07 - 3365 3924.

Yours sincerely,



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