*‘You are being invited to participate in a research study titled* Fantasy software development. *This study is being done by* Jiahui Xu *from the Bsc in computer science* *at the University of Sheffield’.*

***Research Project Title and name of researcher(s):***

*Project title: Fantasy software development*

*Researchers: Jiahui Xu*

**Invitation paragraph**

*We are inviting you to take part in a research project. Before you decide if you would like to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything you don’t understand or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you want to take part.*

***What is the project’s purpose?***

This project aims to solve the lack of electronic education in the current software engineering management education and make software engineering management education more diversified. The purpose of this project is to build an educational game that can be used and effective. The goal of this project is to explore the feasibility of gamification education in the early stage, build a game development plan and develop the game in the mid-term, and finally confirm the success of the game development through user evaluation.

**Why have I been chosen?**

You have been invited to participate because you are a university student who has some background in computer science but has not received formal training in software engineering management. Participants are expected to have the cognitive ability to understand the content of the study, make voluntary and informed decisions, and complete the required tasks independently. A total of 10 students will be invited to participate in this study.

**Do I have to take part?**

*It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep (and be asked to sign a consent form) and you can still withdraw at any time\*. You do not have to give a reason and there will be no negative consequences. If you wish to withdraw from the research, please contact Jiahui Xu.*

Please note that since the data will be collected anonymously, it cannot be extracted and changed after the form is officially filled out and submitted.

*Taking part in this research is voluntary and will not create a legally binding agreement or any form of employment with the University of Sheffield.*

**What will happen to me if I take part? What do I have to do?**

If you choose to take part, you will first review an information sheet and provide informed consent. You will then play a prototype educational game designed to simulate scenarios in software engineering management, such as task weight allocation, email content management, and simulated meetings. The game session will take around 45 to 60 minutes. After the session, you will complete an online questionnaire, which will take approximately 15 minutes. Your feedback will help evaluate the game’s educational value and usability.

**What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

The study involves minimal risk. The main disadvantage is the time commitment, as participation will take approximately one hour. Although all efforts are made to ensure that the educational content in the game is accurate and appropriate, as the game is a prototype, there is a small possibility that some information may be simplified or not reflect standard practices in software engineering management or interpersonal communication. Participants will be informed that the game is for research and educational purposes only and should not be considered professional training material.

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

*‘Whilst there are no immediate benefits for taking part in the project, it is hoped that this work will potentially improve your knowledge of software engineering management’*

**Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?**

*All your personal data will be kept strictly confidential and will only be accessible to members of the research team.*

**Data Protection**

*This research is carried out ‘in the public interest’ in accordance with data protection legislation. Further information can be found in the*[University’s Privacy Notice](https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/govern/data-protection/privacy/general)*.*

*The University of Sheffield will act as the Data Controller for this study. This means that the University]is responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.*

**What happens to the results of the research?**

*Due to the nature of this research it is likely that others may find the data collected to be useful in answering future questions. We will ask for your explicit consent for your data to be shared.*

**Who has ethically reviewed the project?**

*‘this project has been ethically approved by School of Bsc Computer science at the University of Sheffield*

***What if something goes wrong and I wish to complain about the research or report a concern or incident?***

*If you would like to complain about any aspect of the research or if you feel that you have been exploited, abused or harmed as a result of taking part in the research, please contact Jiahui Xu; jxu137@sheffield.ac.uk. If you feel your complaint has not been handled in a satisfactory way you can contact the Head of the Department/School of computer science* Heidi Christensen; [heidi.christensen@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:heidi.christensen@sheffield.ac.uk)*. If your complaint is about how your personal data has been handled, you can find information about how to raise a complaint in the*[*University’s Privacy Notice*](https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/govern/data-protection/privacy/general)

**Contact for further information**

**Jiahui Xu:** [**jxu137@sheffield.ac.uk**](mailto:jxu137@sheffield.ac.uk)

José Miguel Rojas: [j.rojas@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:j.rojas@sheffield.ac.uk)

thank you for participating

‘*If you have any questions, please email to* me *at* [jxu137@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:jxu137@sheffield.ac.uk)

*‘Your participation is entirely voluntary, and you can withdraw at any time (in which case any answers already provided will be deleted). You are free to skip any question’.*

[Start button]

‘By clicking the ‘Submit’ button below, you are consenting to participate in this study, as it is described in the participant information sheet, which you can download here. If you have not yet downloaded a copy of this document for your records, we recommend that you do that now.’

[Submit button]