

## Participant Information Sheet

Project title:	How Good is the Project Assignment? The Effect of Preference Information on the Quality of Assignment Outcomes.
Principal investigator:	Aris Filos-Ratsikas
Researcher collecting data:	Belle Watt

This study was certified according to the Informatics Research Ethics Process, reference number **205195**. Please take time to read the following information carefully. You should keep this page for your records.

### Who are the researchers?

Aris Filos-Ratsikas

Belle Watt

### What is the purpose of the study?

This project aims to enhance the project allocation process by integrating social choice theory to better align student and supervisor preferences with available projects. Addressing inefficiencies and fairness, the study will evaluate various preference elicitation methods and advanced algorithms through experiments using both real and synthetic datasets. Outcomes are expected to not only benefit academic settings but also extend to other sectors like healthcare and corporate environments, potentially transforming how entities approach and implement matching systems. This interdisciplinary approach promises to significantly advance the understanding and application of project allocation, ensuring more efficient and fair results.

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

You are an informatics student, who will/has taken part in the project allocation process.

### Do I have to take part?



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No – participation in this study is entirely up to you. You can withdraw from the study at any time before submitting the online interactive survey.

**What will happen if I decide to take part?**

- Kinds of data being collected includes the time it takes for the participant to complete each page of the interactive survey, and how the participant ranks the projects listed on each page.
- No personal information will be collected from the participant.
- This is an interactive survey where participants will rank projects listed in different ways. These ways include ranking projects, scoring projects on scale 0-10, putting projects in categories, and checking the projects participants are interested in.
- Duration of the session is approximately 30 minutes or less.
- No participant audio/video is being recorded.
- This only needs to be completed once per participant.

**Are there any risks associated with taking part?**

There are no significant risks associated with participation.

**Are there any benefits associated with taking part?**

No.

**What will happen to the results of this study?**

The results of this study may be summarised in published articles, reports and presentations. Quotes or key findings will be anonymized: We will not be collecting any personal information. With your consent, information can also be used for future research. We are hoping to make this data open for future research.

**Data protection and confidentiality.**

Your data will be processed in accordance with Data Protection Law. No personal information will be collected. Your data will be referred to by a unique participant number rather than by name. Your data will only be viewed by the researcher/research team: Aris Filos-Ratsikas and Belle Watt.



All electronic data will be stored on a password-protected encrypted computer, on the School of Informatics' secure file servers, or on the University's secure encrypted cloud storage services (DataShare, ownCloud, or Sharepoint) and all paper records will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in the PI's office. Your consent information will be kept separately from your responses in order to minimise risk.

### **What are my data protection rights?**

The University of Edinburgh is a Data Controller for the information you provide. You have the right to access information held about you. Your right of access can be exercised in accordance Data Protection Law. You also have other rights including rights of correction, erasure and objection. Since data will be collected without personal information, there will be a random id associated with the data collected, it makes it impossible to trace information back to participants after survey completion. For more details, including the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office, please visit [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk). Questions, comments and requests about your personal data can also be sent to the University Data Protection Officer at [dpo@ed.ac.uk](mailto:dpo@ed.ac.uk).

For general information about how we use your data, go to: [edin.ac/privacy-research](http://edin.ac/privacy-research)

### **Who can I contact?**

If you have any further questions about the study, please contact the lead researcher, [Belle Watt, [A.H.Watt@sms.ed.ac.uk](mailto:A.H.Watt@sms.ed.ac.uk)].

If you wish to make a complaint about the study, please contact [inf-ethics@inf.ed.ac.uk](mailto:inf-ethics@inf.ed.ac.uk). When you contact us, please provide the study title and detail the nature of your complaint.

### **Updated information.**

If the research project changes in any way, an updated Participant Information Sheet will be made available on <http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/research/study-updates>.

### **Consent**

By proceeding with the study, I agree to all of the following statements:

- I have read and understood the above information.



- I understand that my participation is voluntary, and I can withdraw at any time.
- I consent to my anonymised data being used in academic publications and presentations.
- I allow my data to be used in future ethically approved research.

