

Plain Language Statement

School of Computing and Information Systems

Technology Innovation Project



Student Researchers:

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Introduction

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project. The following few pages will provide you with further information about the project, so that you can decide if you would like to take part in this research.

Please take the time to read this information carefully. You may ask questions about anything you don't understand or want to know more about.

Your participation is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. If you begin participating, you can also stop at any time.

What is this research about?

In this student project, groups of postgraduate students will investigate challenges faced by international students at the University of Melbourne, such as academic pressure, social integration, and cultural adaptation. We aim to design a technological solution to address these challenges. The aim of the project is to understand your experiences and needs to create a tool that helps students navigate university life more effectively.

What will I be asked to do?

Should you agree to participate, you will be asked to:

- Attend a 15–20 minutes interview to share your experiences adjusting to university life.
- Answer open-ended questions about challenges, support systems, and ideas for improvement (if suggested by interviewees).
- Allow the interview to be recorded/written down for accurate transcription (recordings will be deleted after the project ends).

What are the possible benefits?

Your input will directly contribute to designing a tool that could improve support for international students. Your experiences will help inform solutions for future students.

What are the possible risks?

We have not identified significant risks. Discussions will focus on practical challenges (e.g., academic stress, social integration), not sensitive topics like mental health. If you feel uncomfortable, you may skip questions or withdraw at any time.

Do I have to take part?

No. Participation is completely voluntary. You are able to withdraw at any time.

Will I hear about the results of this project?

If you wish to read the report from the project, please contact the student researchers directly.

What will happen to information about me?

Student researchers will store your data on a password-protected computer system. It will be deleted after the research project ends when the students complete their studies. You will be referred to by a pseudonym in reporting the research.

Where can I get further information?

If you would like more information about the project, please contact the student researchers mmdnasrein@student.unimelb.edu.au; or the subject coordinator, Professor Taehun Rhee taehyun.rhee@unimelb.edu.au.