

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

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THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Project Title: Analysis of student self-reflection blogs in the context of online learning: “3 stars and 1 wish” and “I Like, I Wish, I Wonder”

Project Team: Dr Pawel Orzechowski, Dr Kasia Banas, Dr Brittany Blankinship, Elaine Mowat (Usher Institute, University of Edinburgh)

INVITATION

We would like to invite you to participate in a research project called ‘Analysis of student self-reflection blogs in the context of online learning’. The project is conducted here at the University of Edinburgh (the “University”). This project is focused on how students write their self-reflection posts while studying on primarily-asynchronous online courses. We would also like to investigate what is the content of self reflection. We also want to investigate if the timing of writing the reflection posts (e.g. before or after attending a live session) changes the type of content students reflect on. Finally we would like to investigate if there is any connection between the contents of those reflective writings and the final marks. In other words, we want to find out what are patterns in students’ self-reflection and if there are specific practices or attitudes that help students reflect and perform better. The project has been approved by the Medical Education ethics panel in the Edinburgh Medical School.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

You will not be asked to answer any additional questions. We will only ask you to provide

your student number and will request your consent to use the data about your engagement with a specific course. The data we will obtain will be: your self-reflection posts; your attendance on live sessions (if applicable) and your final marks. If you consent, we will obtain these data from University systems (Learn). We will use your student number or name only in order to connect your writing, attendance and marks data to each other, and at which point it will be removed from the data.

TIME COMMITMENT

Reading this information sheet and responding to the consent form is the only time commitment and will take approximately 2 minutes to complete.

PARTICIPANTS' RIGHTS

Taking part in the study is entirely optional, and you may decide to stop taking part in the study at any time without explanation. You also have the right to ask that any data you have supplied to that point be withdrawn from the study and destroyed (this will only be possible prior to the data being anonymised). This will in no way impact upon your current or future role at the University.

You have the right to have your questions about the procedures used in the study answered (unless answering these questions would interfere with the study's outcome). If you have any questions as a result of reading this information sheet, you should ask the researchers (by sending them an email using the contact details in the 'For Further Information' section below) before you take part. Your decision to participate or not will have no bearing on your relationship with the University or your marks for any course.

BENEFITS AND RISKS

There are no known benefits or risks to you in taking part in this study. However, if you do feel stressed or upset through taking part please contact the researchers in the first instance (using the contact details in the 'For Further Information' section below) or the Wellbeing Team in the Edinburgh Medical School: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/medicine-vet-medicine/edinburgh-medical-school/medicine/the-student-experience/student-support>

COST, REIMBURSEMENT AND COMPENSATION

There is no reimbursement or compensation for taking part in this study.

PRIVACY/CONFIDENTIALITY/ANONYMITY

The data we collect does not contain any personal information about you except

your student number or name. We will use your student number or name only to match your Learn data on your writing, engagement and educational performance. Your data (including any personal information) will be stored in Europe, and held in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016/679.

When your participation in this project is complete, your data will be anonymised. From that time, there will be no record that links the data collected from you with any personal data from which you could be identified (e.g., your name, address, student number, email, etc.). Up until the point at which your data have been anonymised, you can decide not to consent to having your data included in further analyses. Once anonymised, these data will be retained by the project team for 5 years, and may be made available indefinitely to researchers via accessible data repositories and possibly used for novel purposes.

INDEPENDENT CONTACT DETAILS

If you would like to discuss this study with someone independent of the study please contact Nazir Lone, Personal Chair of Critical Care and Epidemiology, Centre for Population Health Sciences (nazir.lone@ed.ac.uk)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Dr Pawel Orzechowski will be glad to answer your questions about this study at any time. You may contact him by email at Pawel.Orzechowski@ed.ac.uk

If you want to find out about the final results of this study, you should contact Dr Pawel Orzechowski after July 2026.

TO TAKE PART IN THE STUDY YOU CAN USE THIS CONSENT FORM:

<https://forms.office.com/e/FKD2bFk8nc>