

CodeCrafters Participation Study

Participant Information Sheet (PIS)

You are being invited to take part in a research study on your use of CodeCrafters outside of your degree programme. Before you decide whether to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being conducted and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully before deciding whether to take part and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

About the research

➤ **Who will conduct the research?**

Arpan Pandey, Student, Dept. of Computer Science, The University of Manchester
Dr. Duncan Hull, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Computer Science, The University of Manchester
Dr. Tom Carroll, Lecturer, Dept. of Computer Science, The University of Manchester

➤ **What is the purpose of the research?**

Analysing students' engagement on a real-world software engineering practice platform called CodeCrafters. You were selected to take part in the study due to your sign-up to the free access for UoM students by CodeCrafters.

➤ **Am I suitable to take part?**

You are suitable to take part if you have signed up to the CodeCrafters platform and consented to participate in this study and be aged over 18 years old.

➤ **Will the outcomes of the research be published?**

Yes, we aim to publish anonymised outcomes of the research in a peer-reviewed journal.

➤ **Who has reviewed the research project?**

The Department of Computer Science Ethics Review Committee has reviewed the research project.

What would my involvement be?

➤ **What would I be asked to do if I took part?**

You will be asked to fill out a questionnaire that should take no more than 20 minutes.
You will be invited to a short interview which should take no more than 45 minutes, and only a transcript/notes from that will be kept.

➤ **Will I be compensated for taking part?**

A £15 gift voucher will be given to each participant on completion of the 45-minute interview.

➤ **What happens if I do not want to take part or if I change my mind?**

It is up to you to decide whether to take part. Before the questionnaire, there will be consent screen which is your opportunity to not partake in the study. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep. If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without detriment to yourself. However, it will not be possible to remove your data from the project once it has been anonymised as we will not be able to identify your specific data. This does not affect your data protection rights. If you decide not to take part, you do not need to do anything further.

If you are asked and decide to do the interview, we will only keep a pseudo-anonymised transcript/notes from the interview.

Data Protection and Confidentiality

➤ **What information will you collect about me?**

In order to participate in this research project, we will need to collect information that could identify you, called “personal identifiable information”. Specifically, we will need to collect:

- Your name
- Your CodeCrafters/Github Username

➤ **Under what legal basis are you collecting this information?**

We are collecting and storing this personal identifiable information in accordance with UK data protection law which protect your rights. These state that we must have a legal basis (specific reason) for collecting your data. For this study, the specific reason is that it is “a public interest task” and “a process necessary for research purposes”.

➤ **What are my rights in relation to the information you will collect about me?**

You have a number of rights under data protection law regarding your personal information. For example, you can request a copy of the information we hold about you.

If you would like to know more about your different rights or the way we use your personal information to ensure we follow the law, please consult our [Privacy Notice for Research](#).

➤ **Will my participation in the study be confidential and my personal identifiable information be protected?**

In accordance with data protection law, The University of Manchester is the Data Controller for this project. This means that we are responsible for making sure your personal information is kept secure, confidential and used only in the way you have been told it will be used. All researchers are trained with this in mind, and your data will be looked after in the following way:

- Data is pseudonymised using ID's only known to the research team
- Whatever data is published will be fully-anonymised and this anonymisation will take place during February 2026 until which date participants can request that their data is withdrawn from the study. Data will be anonymised by removing all personal names and replacing them numbers.
- The data will be stored on secure authenticated University systems which only the research team can access along with authorised IT staff
- The data will be stored until the paper is published which we expect to be before the end of 2026.
- We don't plan to do any further studies so will not be keeping the data beyond the end of the study
- There will be no video recordings,
- A minimal audio with no Personal Information (PI) will be recorded for the purposes of generating a transcript, which will subsequently be deleted on generation of the transcript.
- Any transcripts created will not contain any personal identifying information and will be created using stand-alone (not cloud based) speech to text software.

General Example: The study team at The University of Manchester will have access to your personal information and they will anonymise it as soon as possible. Your name and any other identifying information will be removed and replaced with a random ID number. The research team will have access to the key that links this ID number to your personal information. Your consent form will be retained for 5 years in a locked cabinet on UoM premises for audit purposes. With your consent, we would also like to retain your contact details for 5 years in order to provide you with a summary of the findings for this study. If you provide consent for this, your details will be safely stored on UoM servers in a digital folder only accessible to the study team and used only for the purposes described above.

This information will not identify you and will not be combined with other information in a way that could identify you. The information will only be used for the purpose of our research project, and cannot be used to contact you regarding any other matter. It will not be used to make decisions about future services available to you.

Please also note that individuals from The University of Manchester or regulatory authorities may need to look at the data collected for this study to make sure the project is being carried out as planned. This may involve looking at identifiable data. All individuals involved in auditing and monitoring the study will have a strict duty of confidentiality to you as a research participant.

What if I have a complaint?

➤ Contact details for complaints

If you have a complaint that you wish to direct to members of the research team, please contact:

DUNCAN HULL

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

KILBURN BUILDING

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

M13 9PL

duncan.hull@manchester.ac.uk

0161 275 6186

If you wish to make a formal complaint to someone independent of the research team or if you are not satisfied with the response you have gained from the researchers in the first instance then please contact

The Research Ethics Manager, Research Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL, by emailing: research.complaints@manchester.ac.uk or by telephoning 0161 306 8089.

If you wish to contact us about your data protection rights, please email dataprotection@manchester.ac.uk or write to The Information Governance Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, M13 9PL at the University and we will guide you through the process of exercising your rights.

You also have a right to complain to the [Information Commissioner's Office about complaints relating to your personal identifiable information](#) Tel 0303 123 1113

Contact Details

If you have any queries about the study or if you are interested in taking part then please contact the researcher(s)

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