

## **Participant Information Sheet for Food Recommendations**

### **Research: Hai Quang My Tran, School of Engineering and Computer Science, Victoria University of Wellington**

I am an honors student in Engineering at Victoria University of Wellington. As part of this degree I am undertaking a research project leading to a thesis. The project I am undertaking is focusing on recommender systems to recommend food to users based on their personal preferences, their likes/dislikes and other factors. I will need to examine which recommender techniques best fit my use case for recommending food to users and compare their performance and accuracy with against each other. The scholarly value of this project is that it provides insight into recommender systems, and how to provide personalised recommendations to users. Since it uses a recommendation algorithm that is based on previous behaviours such as likes/dislikes on items, it means that this project information can be applied to other domains. Overall, better understanding of recommender systems can help users filter out unnecessary items, and provide them with relevant items that may be of interest to them. This saves time, and is convenient, especially with a large number of items.

In order to do this, I am planning to use evaluation techniques that require the use of labelled data from real users to test the recommendation accuracy of these systems.

I am inviting students from the school of Engineering and Computer Science to participate in this study. Participants will be asked to complete a survey form by rating as many food items that they are willing to, according to a scale that is presented on the participation sheet. In addition, the survey form will ask a few questions about their food intolerances and whether they are vegetarian or not. It is envisioned that the survey will take about quarter of an hour to complete, and will be done in lectures. If participants are willing, they are able to complete them outside of lectures and return the form to me or my supervisor. If students decide to participate in this study, it will have no impact on their grades. Students are also able to decline their participation in this study if they wish to and have no obligations to participate.

Responses will be used to see how accurate the recommender systems are. Responses will form the basis of my research project and will be put into a written report on an anonymous basis. It will not be possible for you to be identified personally. Only grouped responses will be presented in this report. All material collected will be kept confidential. No other person besides me and my supervisor Xiaoying Sharon Gao will see the survey forms. The thesis will be submitted for

marking to the School of Engineering and Computer Science and may potentially be published to be used in conferences. Survey forms will be destroyed at the end of the project which will be guaranteed to be before the end of this year.

If you have any further questions or would like to receive further information about the project, please contact me at [tranhai@ecs.vuw.ac.nz](mailto:tranhai@ecs.vuw.ac.nz), or my primary supervisor Dr Xiaoying Sharon Gao, at the School of Engineering and Computer Science at Victoria University +64 4 463 5978 and [xiaoying.gao@ecs.vuw.ac.nz](mailto:xiaoying.gao@ecs.vuw.ac.nz).

If you have any ethical concerns about this research, please contact Associate Professor Susan Corbett ([susan.corbett@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:susan.corbett@vuw.ac.nz)), ph: 04 463 5480, Convenor, Human Ethics Committee, Victoria University of Wellington.

Hai Quang My Tran