

## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

### Questionnaire Participants

**Project Title:** Exploring inclusiveness in the Engineering student experience at the University of Auckland

#### Principal Investigator:

Dr Kelly Blincoe, Senior Lecturer, Department of Electrical, Computer and Software Engineering, Te Herenga Mātai Pūkaha

#### Researchers:

Dr Priyanka Dhopade, Lecturer, Mechanical Engineering, Te Herenga Mātai Pūkaha

Dr Penelope Watson, Senior Lecturer, School of Learning Development and Professional Practice, Te Kura Akoranga me Te Tauwhiro Tangata

Dr Tom Allen, Senior Lecturer, Mechanical Engineering, Te Herenga Mātai Pūkaha

Dr Hazim Namik, Professional Teaching Fellow, Mechanical Engineering, Te Herenga Mātai Pūkaha

#### Purpose of the Study

This pilot study is funded by the Faculty of Engineering and is being undertaken to better understand the experiences of undergraduate Engineering students at University of Auckland, particularly in relation to their own identity. The information collected will be used to support a future longitudinal study of Engineering students' experiences throughout their degree and into the workplace. It will also help inform the Faculty on opportunities to increase inclusiveness and allow all students to feel welcome and supported while they are studying here.

The goals for this pilot study are to:

- Compare the Faculty of Engineering (University of Auckland) situation to existing literature on experiences, satisfaction and retention of undergraduate Engineering students, particularly in relation to gender, specialization and years of study; and
- Create background information on student experiences and feelings of inclusiveness in the Faculty of Engineering to support a longitudinal study in the future.

#### Participant Involvement

We are seeking currently enrolled undergraduate Engineering students from all years and specialisations to participate in our pilot study through an online anonymous questionnaire designed to capture information on students' perceptions of themselves and their experiences within the Faculty of Engineering.

This will take approximately 15min to complete, and submission of the information at the end of the questionnaire will be taken as consent to participate.

If you are a student of the researchers, the Dean of Engineering gives their assurance that your participation or non-participation in this study will have no effect on your grades or relationship with the University. You may contact your academic head should you feel that this assurance has not been met.

- All participants who submit responses will be eligible for a random prize draw for one of three \$100 Westfield vouchers.
- A summary of the findings will be available to interested participants who select that option at the end of the questionnaire.
- Inclusion in this draw can be selected via a separate link after submission of the questionnaire, to ensure that

no identifying information is associated with responses.

- After submitting the questionnaire participants will also be invited to attend a focus group session, for which there will be a separate Participant Information Sheet and consent form provided.

If you wish to participate in this study but would prefer to do so in Te Reo Māori, you are welcome to contact the researchers directly to request a translation of the questionnaire and associated documents.

### **Right to Withdraw from Participation**

Participation in this research is entirely voluntary, and you may leave the online questionnaire at any point prior to submission without any responses being recorded. **Once you have submitted your responses, we will not be able to remove them from the dataset as they are anonymous.**

### **Minimisation of Harm**

Potential risks from participating in the questionnaire could arise from questions relating to personal experiences, thus, the questionnaire provided to participants is short, and all questions are optional so may be skipped if preferred. The questionnaire includes Likert scale questions and minimal open-ended questions. Participants will also be able to exit the questionnaire at any point before submission and their answers will not be recorded. Potential risks from participating in this research could arise from considering personal experiences and one's sense of identity. If anything in this questionnaire provokes strong emotions for you we encourage you to seek support from any of the counseling services available to you. The University Student Health and Counselling Service contact information can be found at <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/on-campus/student-support/personal-support/student-health-counselling.html>. For cultural support, the Student Support Advisor (Steve Roberts) can be contacted at [s.roberts@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:s.roberts@auckland.ac.nz).

### **Confidentiality and Anonymity**

The online questionnaire will be anonymous, no names, email addresses or IPs will be collected. Participants will be invited through Faculty email distribution lists and representatives from student and student support groups, and the researchers will not know who has completed the questionnaire. Data will be collated and analysed using both qualitative and quantitative methods, with the aim of discerning trends or common themes. While it is theoretically possible that information provided could lead to identifying individuals, this is not the intention of our study and all attempts will be made to maintain anonymity and confidentiality. Such information would not be reported in a way that allowed others to identify individuals.

### **Project Funding and Third-Party Involvement**

This Project is funded by the Faculty of Engineering, University of Auckland.

### **Data Usage, Storage and Retention**

The data will be compiled and analysed for use in faculty reports and journal articles. Data will be stored on the Principal Investigator's University of Auckland password-protected computer and will only be accessible to the Principal Investigator and researchers. Data will be retained for six years to maintain the integrity of the research in the form of audio and written files, with no identifying information linked to the responses. Data will be securely destroyed after that time.

Contact lists for the prize draw and focus group invitations will be stored separately and likewise retained for six years and destroyed after that time.

### **Researcher Contact Details:**

If you would like more information on this study, or the questionnaire itself, please feel free to contact the Principal Investigator directly.

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**UAHPEC Chair Contact Details:**

For any queries regarding ethical concerns you may contact the Chair, The University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee, Office of Research Strategy and Integrity, The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142. Telephone 09 373-7599 ext. 83711. Email: [humanethics@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:humanethics@auckland.ac.nz).

Approved by the University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee on 16/06/2021 for three years.  
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