



## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

### *Exploring the Impact of Gamified Digital Badges on Knowledge Retention in Endangered Language Learning: A Scottish Gaelic Case Study*

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#### **1. What is the purpose of the project?**

This project aims to explore the effectiveness of gamified digital badges in enhancing knowledge retention among Scottish Gaelic learners. Additionally, it seeks to investigate further secondary hypotheses related to engagement, prior knowledge of Scottish Gaelic, and motivation to understand the potential benefits of gamified badges in language learning.

#### **2. Who can take part in this project?**

Anyone over 18 residing within the United Kingdom and without significant prior knowledge of Scottish Gaelic can participate in this project.

#### **3. What would taking part involve?**

Participants will engage in the following steps if they decide to proceed with the study:

- The participant must consent to the research study, sign up with an email and password, and state their current motivation to learn Scottish Gaelic.
- The participant will then be granted access to the learning platform, where they can learn Scottish Gaelic content at their own pace. The only requirement at this stage is for participants to read the five very brief overview lessons and use the platform in one go.
- Once a user has decided to finish using the platform, they will then answer a very brief questionnaire with some personal data.
- The first of three brief quizzes on Scottish Gaelic will be completed immediately after completing the personal data questionnaire.
- The second of three brief quizzes on Scottish Gaelic should be completed one hour after the first quiz.
- The final of the three brief Scottish Gaelic quizzes should be completed two weeks after the first quiz.

#### **4. Do I have to take part?**

No, participation in the project is entirely voluntary. Individuals are not required to participate, and they can withdraw at any point during the study.

#### **5. Are there reasons why I should not take part?**

There's no particular reason why you shouldn't consider participating in this project unless you cannot meet the criteria outlined in point 2. Overall, your involvement in the research project shouldn't exceed one hour or your time (you can take longer if you'd like), spread across three distinct periods.

## **6. What does the estimated schedule look like?**

An estimated schedule is provided below:

- Registration: 5 Minutes
- Exploring the platform: 30 Minutes
- Personal Questionnaire: 5 Minutes
- Scottish Gaelic quiz (immediately after platform use): 5 Minutes
- Scottish Gaelic quiz (one hour after platform use): 5 Minutes
- Scottish Gaelic quiz (two weeks after platform use): 5 Minutes

## **7. What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Participating in the project offers several potential benefits:

- Contributing to research: By participating, you will contribute valuable research to understand the effectiveness of gamified badges in language learning, particularly in preserving endangered languages like Scottish Gaelic. Your participation will help advance knowledge in this field.
- Learning opportunity: Engaging with the online learning platform allows you to learn some of the basics of Scottish Gaelic at your own pace.

## **8. What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

While participating in the project has limited disadvantages, it's essential to consider the following before deciding whether the study is correct for yourself:

- Time commitment: Engaging with the online learning platform and completing the associated activities requires a time commitment spread over multiple sessions.
- Privacy concerns: Participants must provide email addresses to participate in this study, and some may feel uncomfortable sharing this information on a new platform.
- Limited Language Proficiency: Engaging with the language learning materials may be challenging for individuals without prior knowledge of Scottish Gaelic. While the platform is designed for beginners, some participants may find the content difficult to understand.
- No incentives: Unfortunately, this study does not offer any incentives for participation.

## **9. What type of data is collected?**

The data collected includes, but is not limited to:

- Personal information, such as email and password, provided during registration.
- Responses to personal data questionnaires include the participants' relation to Scotland, prior knowledge of Scottish Gaelic, and motivation to learn the language.
- Quiz performance, including response times, answers and scores.
- Platform usage includes time spent, number of badges collected, and progress through the platform.

## **10. What will happen to the data collected and results of the project?**

Only the researcher, Rheanne McIntosh, will have access to all the data provided by the participants. After the study collection, the data will be treated confidentially and anonymised. The dissertation, containing only anonymised data, will be shared with the University of Bath. Published reports will only show aggregated results, ensuring individual privacy.

## **11. Who has reviewed the project?**

The University of Bath has given a favourable ethical opinion on the project.

**12. How can I withdraw from the project?**

Participants can withdraw from this project by discontinuing platform use, selecting withdrawal options in emails or on the platform, or contacting the researcher via email. Once withdrawn, the participant is relieved from study-related tasks and platform access is terminated. If required, any data which could identify the participant, such as email address, will be anonymised within 48 hours.

**13. University of Bath privacy notice**

The University of Bath privacy notice can be found here: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/university-of-bath-privacy-notice-for-research-participants/>.

**14. What happens if there is a problem?**

If you are concerned about any aspect of the project, you should speak to the researcher (Rheanne McIntosh), who will do her best to answer any questions. If the researcher cannot resolve your concern or you want to complain about the project, please contact the Research Governance and Compliance Team at [research-ethics@bath.ac.uk](mailto:research-ethics@bath.ac.uk).

**15. Who should I contact for more information?**

Thank you for your interest in this project. Please do not hesitate to contact the researcher (Rheanne McIntosh) for more information.