TORRENS UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION AND CONSENT FORM

Participant Information

Research Project Title: Evaluating the Impact of Python Programming Education Through Creative Computing Environments

Research Project Reference: 394

Dear Participant

We invite you to take part in the above research project. The Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of Torrens University Australia has approved the ethical aspects of this research project. We will conduct the research per the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2023).

The Participant Information section tells you about the research project and explains the processes involved with taking part. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the research (a survey). Please read this information carefully. Ask questions about anything you do not understand or want to know more about. Participation in this survey is voluntary; if you do not wish to complete it, you do not have to. If you decide to participate in the survey, you must sign the consent section or consent using the digital survey form.

We invite you to partake because: you are a Torrens University student over age 18, enrolled in an appropriate introductory programming subject (ITP122).

Project Details

1   The aim of this project is:

> To evaluate how a new Python code editing environment can help students learn Python, improving programming education. Specifically, it explores the impact of a new Python tool based on the Thonny IDE that supports a more creative and visual approach to coding. Results could enhance teaching methods and inspire further research into digital literacy tools.

2   The expected benefits of this project are:

> We cannot guarantee or promise you will receive direct benefits from this research. However, the findings from this study could help improve teaching tools and methods for future students, potentially enhancing programming education overall.

3   Your participation in this project will involve:

> Your participation in this project will involve completing a 10- to 15-minute survey after using the Thonny-py5mode tool to complete Assessment 2 (which covers roughly four weeks of exposure to the software).

4   The foreseeable risks of participation have been identified as:

Risk	Mitigation strategy
1. Time commitment. You will complete a 10- to 15-minute survey.	1. You can withdraw from the survey anytime *before* submitting it.
2. There is always the (unlikely) possibility that you encounter technical issues with the form.	2. We can provide support and guidance; please contact the researchers should you encounter issues.
3. You may feel uncomfortable sharing feedback or concerns.	3. All data will be anonymised, securely stored, and only reported in aggregate form to ensure confidentiality.
4. You may feel compelled to partake to please your lecturer/facilitator.	4. The study is fully conducted by researchers who are not involved in teaching your subject.

5   Data Management

The data collected as part of this project will be stored and managed by Torrens University Australia and handled in accordance with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research. Researchers will treat information that can identify you as confidential, ensuring it is securely stored. As the law requires, researchers will not disclose your personally-identifiable data without your permission.

Researchers may disseminate information collected as part of this research through public statements or publications, including in theses, reports, conference presentations and journal articles. However, data will be aggregated and summarised before any reporting. Where necessary, reports will describe participants using pseudonyms (and never identified using personally-identifiable/de-identifiable information).

The following exceptions or special considerations apply to this project:

This research will collect data solely through an anonymous survey completed following Assessment 2 submission (which covers roughly four weeks of exposure to the software), ensuring confidentiality and focusing on participants' experiences with the tool.

6   Option to Withdraw

Your participation in this survey is voluntary. You should feel no pressure or compulsion of any kind to participate. You may also ask the researchers to return or dispose of any data collected from you at any time unless it is impossible to disaggregate your data from the rest of the data).

The following exceptions or special considerations apply to this project:

Participants cannot review or change their responses after submission due to the survey's anonymous nature. While they can modify answers before submitting, responses are anonymised to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

7   Research Team

If you would like further information regarding this research project and involvement, please contact the researcher(s):

Tristan Bunn at tristan.bunn@torrens.edu.au
Aaron Bere at aaron.bere@torrens.edu.au

8   Ethical Enquiries

If you have any enquiries about the ethical aspects of this research project, such as the way it is being conducted or any questions about being a research participant in general, please contact the reviewing HREC:

Torrens University Australia HREC
Human Research Ethics Officer, ethics@torrens.edu.au.

Thank you for your interest in this research project.

Consent Details

☐   I am over 18 years of age.

☐   I have read the Participant Information Section or someone has read it to me in a language that I understand.

☐   I consent to participate in the research project described.

Participant's name   Participant's signature

_____   _____

Date: