

PARTICIPATION INFORMATION SHEET

Requirement based academic matchmaking platform for academic institutes

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You are being invited to take part in a research study on the "Requirement-based Academic Matchmaking Platform for Academic Institutes," which aims to bridge the gap between qualified lecturers and academic institutions in Sri Lanka. The study focuses on identifying key requirements and features to enhance matchmaking between lecturers and institutes, improving academic delivery.

This research is being undertaken as part of the researcher's MSc IT academic program and is being conducted in collaboration with University of Westminster.

The study will involve you:

- 1) Completing three questionnaires. The first focuses on institutional recruitment practices, the second on the qualities and competencies sought in lecturers, and the third on technical and user expectations from the platform. Each will take about 10 minutes to complete.
- 2) Participating in a one-hour interview discussing your experiences with current recruitment practices and matchmaking tools, and your expectations for a specialized platform. Interviews will be audio-recorded, transcribed, and securely retained as part of the research archive for 1 year.

Please note:

- Your participation in this research is entirely voluntary.
- You have the right to withdraw at any time without giving a reason.
- Wherever practicable, withdrawal from the research will not affect any treatment and/or services that you receive.
- You have the right to ask for your data to be withdrawn as long as this is practical, and for personal information to be destroyed.
- You do not have to answer particular questions either on questionnaires or in interviews if you do not wish to do so.
- Your responses will normally be made anonymous, unless indicated above to the contrary, and will be kept confidential unless you provide explicit consent to do otherwise, for example, the use of your image from photographs and/or video recordings. [NOTE: it may not be possible to maintain confidentiality in certain circumstances, e.g. where issues of child safety have been identified. You should seek clarification from the researcher and/or their supervisor if you are concerned about this].

- No individuals should be identifiable from any collated data, written report of the research, or any publications arising from it.
- All computer data files will be encrypted and password protected. The researcher will keep files in a secure place and will comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act.
- All hard copy documents, e.g. consent forms, completed questionnaires, etc. will be kept securely and in a locked cupboard, wherever possible on university premises. Documents may be scanned and stored electronically. This may be done to enable secure transmission of data to the university's secure computer systems.
- If you wish you, can receive information on the results of the research. Please indicate on the consent form if you would like to receive this information.
- The researcher can be contacted during and after participation by email (tharindu.20231753@iit.ac.lk) or by telephone (+94766046486).
- If you have a complaint about this research project you can contact the project supervisor, Mr. Pumudu Fernando by e-mail (pumudu.f@iit.ac.lk) or by telephone (+94768209742).