Participant Information Sheet

I am writing to ask for your participation in my Final Year Thesis Project research on E-Learning Software in Civil Engineering. My research aims to evaluate the current academia of E-Learning and Engineering Pedagogy. This study involves the creation and evaluation of software to find:

- What software features are most helpful.

- How do students perceive an E-Learning software benefits them.

This research will aim to provide a basis for further investigation and ultimately a suite of online software for actual tuition activities at universities.

Am I Eligible To Receive Incentives or Prizes for my participation? To be eligible, you must

1. Be a current Curtin University student.
2. Include your contact details in the survey.
3. Must complete the survey to a minimal reasonable standard.

Why is this study Important? Globally, there are increasingly tight budgets at universities, higher expectations of graduate engineers and a there is a trend towards online learning. Developing a better understanding of e-learning important, and that is what this study aims to do.

How will this study be done? This study will be done online in your own time. The study will require you to experiment with a website (BeamCalc) and attempt some unmarked tutorial questions. After completing the tutorial you will be prompted to complete a survey on your experience.

The survey aims to find your perspective on which features were most helpful, weather you had any problems with the software, and if you think you would benefit from this software in your studies.

Are there any risks or inconveniences involved? There are no risks or hazards involved with this study besides the inconvenience of participation.

Is your anonymity protected and can you withdraw from the study? No data which could identify you will be published. You are free at any time to withdraw consent to further participation without prejudice in any way.

What happens to the data? Data will be stored securely on surveymonkey.com and will be accessible by myself and my supervisor (Natalie Lloyd) only.

A copy of the survey responses will be stored offline for analysis, however: *All contact details (ie your name and email address) will be stored online*.

Contact details will remain online at surveymonkey.com. Serveymonkey has a privacy policy which can be found from their home page (or at this link) which describes how data is secured there.

You will hold the permission for the data to be used in the study and you can withdraw the data within one week of the survey submission.

Can my actual answers be published?

Summarised results will be presented in the thesis (and related publications or conferences) which will be published after examinations.

Written answers will be only quoted with your permission. These answers may be quoted in the thesis and any subsequent publication.

I am available for answering any questions you may have at the contact details above.

Kind Regards

Nicholas Archer