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Researcher: Nicholas Archer
Research Supervisor: Natalie Lloyd
Course / Project: Civil Engineering Final Year Thesis
Project Title: E-Learning Software for reinforced concrete beam design

Your Area

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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:

1. What software features are most helpful.
2. How do students/teachers perceive an E-Learning software benefits them.

Your participation in this research will provide a basis for further investigation and possibly a suite of online software for actual tuition activities for future students.

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.

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

How is the data stored? Data will be stored securely on www.qualtrics.com and will be accessible by myself and my supervisor (Natalie Lloyd) only. Data will be stored for 7 years as per Western Australian University Sector Disposal Authority (WAUSDA) Section 14.6.5.

Can my actual answers be published? Summarised results will be presented in the thesis (and related publications or conferences). Written answers will be only quoted with your permission. These answers may be quoted in the thesis and any subsequent publication.

Participation in this Study is Voluntary.

This study has been approved under Curtin University's process for lower-risk Studies (Approval Number *ENG-42-14*). This process complies with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. For further Information, contact the researchers named above or the Curtin University Human Research Ethics Committee c/- Office of Research and Development, Curtin University, GPO Box U1987, Perth 6845 or by telephoning 92669223 or by emailing hrec@curtin.edu.au

Any person considering participation in this research project, or agreeing to participate, may raise any questions or issues with the researchers at any time. In addition, any persons not satisfied with the response of the researchers may raise ethics issues or concerns, and make make any complaints about this research project by contacting Curtin University Human Research Committee.

All research participants are entitled to retain a copy of this information sheet and/or the consent form as appropriate.

Kind regards

Nicholas Archer