



## ***Lifelong Learning Supported by ePortfolio Processes***

### **INFORMATION SHEET**

My name is Yuliya Bozhko. I am a PhD student in information technology at Massey University. This research is being conducted under the supervision of Dr Eva Heinrich, A/Prof Mark Brown and Dr David Parsons, also of Massey University.

The aim of this information sheet is to inform you of a study undertaken at Massey University in which you are invited to participate.

The overall aim of my research is to develop an e-learning environment which will provide comprehensive support for your lifelong learning in the university. To do this I want to use systems that are already familiar to you such as Learning Management System (like Stream or WebCT) and an ePortfolio system (like Mahara). However, to know what the requirements for such an environment are, it is important to find out the needs from both, lecturers and students, which is where I need your help.

I have already conducted interviews with the lecturers. And now I am looking for students who have experience in using ePortfolio system in studying. I will initially approach up to fifteen other students at Massey University to invite to participate in this research. I will try to select participants from various years of study and various programs. Fifteen participants from the student side should be enough to generate the data I need for the current study.

If you agree to participate in my study, I will interview you to investigate the requirements for an environment that can support your lifelong learning in the university.

This will involve face to face semi-structured interviews guided by a set of scenarios and open-ended questions. The entire process will take no more than one hour to complete. To facilitate the interviews analysis I would like to record the interview in audio format. The interview recordings will be transcribed and if you want, you will be presented with a copy of this transcript.

To protect the privacy of participants, all the data collected will be anonymous. But due to the nature of my sample it might be possible to infer your identity. Results will appear in a thesis and academic publications. Quotations from your answers may also be used.

The consent forms and audio records will be stored for a period of five (5) years. At the end of this period, both consent forms and the audio records will be destroyed.

For your information: you are under no obligation to accept this invitation. If you decide to participate, you have the right to:

- decline to answer any particular question;
- withdraw from the study at any time;
- ask any questions about the study at any time during participation;
- provide information on the understanding that your name will not be used unless you give permission to the researcher;
- be given access to a summary of the project findings when it is concluded;
- ask for the recorder to be turned off at any time during the interview.

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