



MASSEY UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SCIENCES
TE WĀHANGA PŪTAIAO

Lifelong Learning Supported by ePortfolio Processes

INFORMATION SHEET

My name is Yuliya Bozhko. I am a Ph.D. student in information technology at Massey University. My research project 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 a concept and a prototype of a learner-centered e-learning environment which will provide comprehensive support for lifelong learning in university. This environment will be built on an institutionally focused Learning Management System (LMS) and a learner focused ePortfolio system. Based on the interviews with lecturers and students, I identified the requirements for such an environment at an earlier stage of the project. Some of these requirements were implemented in an ePortfolio system prototype. Now it is important to evaluate whether the implementation meets the needs of lecturers and students, which is where I need your help.

I am looking for mature postgraduate students who have experience in using ePortfolio systems while studying. For this part of the evaluation, I will initially approach up to five postgraduate students at Massey University inviting them to participate in this research. Five participants from the postgraduate students should be enough to generate the data I need for the current study.

I will as well involve undergraduate students, lecturers and administration staff from Massey University in interviews and a group experiment, to evaluate the prototype from their perspective.

If you agree to participate in my study, I will provide you with access to the ePortfolio system prototype until December 31, 2011 to try out enhanced features and new functionality. Afterwards, I will interview you to get your feedback and analyse whether the prototype meets your needs as a lifelong learner and can provide support for students' lifelong learning in universities. I expect the entire interview process to take up to one hour to complete. To facilitate interview analysis, I would like to record the interview in audio format.

To protect the privacy of participants, all the data collected will be reported in anonymous form. Yet, 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 interview answers and the data created by you in the prototype system 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.

The results of this study will be used to evaluate a prototype of an ePortfolio system that can support and facilitate students' lifelong learning at universities.

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 before your interview or before data analysis was conducted;
- 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.

Project contacts:

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Please feel free to contact either me or my supervisor if you have any questions about the project.

This project has been evaluated by peer review and judged to be low risk. Consequently, it has not been reviewed by one of the University's Human Ethics Committees. The researcher(s) named above are responsible for the ethical conduct of this research.

If you have any concerns about the conduct of this research that you wish to raise with someone other than the researcher(s), please contact Professor John O'Neill, Director, Research Ethics, telephone 06 350 5249, email: humanethics@massey.ac.nz.