

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM

Participant Group: Postgraduate Computer Science Students

Title of study: Evaluating Pedagogical Effectiveness in Postgraduate Computer Science Education

Principal Investigator: School of Computer Science and Engineering, UNSW Sydney

1. What is the research study about?

You are invited to take part in this research study. The research study aims to understand which teaching methods postgraduate students find most effective for learning, versus those they find most engaging. The goal is to build an evidence-based framework for improving course design.

You have been invited because you are a current or recently graduated student in a postgraduate Computer Science program at UNSW. Your contact details have not been obtained by the research team; you have been invited via a general announcement posted to a course website by a university staff member.

2. Who is conducting this research?

The study is being carried out by the following researcher: Dr. Paul Hunter, from the School of Computer Science and Engineering, UNSW Sydney. This research is not funded by an external organisation.

3. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

Before you decide to participate in this research study, you should meet the following criteria:

- You must be aged 18 years or older.
- You must be a current or recently graduated student from the Master of Information Technology (8543) or Master of Data Science and Decisions (8646) programs at UNSW.

4. Do I have to take part in this research study?

Participation in this research study is voluntary. If you do not want to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the study at any stage. Your decision to participate or not will have no impact on your grades or academic standing.

5. What does participation in this research require, and are there any risks involved?

If you decide to take part in the research study, we will ask you to complete an anonymous online survey. The survey includes questions about your academic program, your experience with different teaching methods (such as lectures and labs), and your perspectives on learning. While most questions involve selecting from a list of options, some questions will ask for open-ended feedback; these questions are optional.

We don't expect this research to cause any harm. However, you may skip any questions in the survey if you do not wish to answer them. A list of free and confidential university support services is provided below to assist you if necessary.

6. Total participation time

In total, your participation in this study will require approximately 5-10 minutes to complete the online survey.

7. Recompense to participants

You will not receive direct payment for participation. However, upon completion of the survey, you will be given the option to enter a prize draw to win one of ten \$100 gift vouchers as a token of appreciation for your time. To maintain your anonymity, this draw is handled via a separate survey, which you can access using the link provided upon completion of the main survey. Your entry cannot be connected to your survey responses.

8. What will happen to information about me?

The anonymous information that you give us will be kept for 7 years after the project's completion. We will store this information about you in a non-identifiable format on secure, password-protected UNSW-managed servers. Your information will only be used for academic analysis, with the results published in academic journals and presented at conferences.

9. Withdrawal

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time by closing the questionnaire before submission. Once you have submitted the questionnaire, however, we will not be able to withdraw your responses as the questionnaire is anonymous and we will not know which response is yours.

10. Contact and Support

If you require further information, you can contact the Chief Investigator, Dr. Paul Hunter (paul.hunter@unsw.edu.au). If you experience any distress, you can contact UNSW's free and confidential Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at +61 2 9385 5418.

If you have a complaint, please contact the UNSW Human Research Ethics Coordinator (humanethics@unsw.edu.au).

Consent Declaration

By selecting "I agree" you are confirming that:

1. You have read the Participant Information Statement above.
2. You understand that participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any time before submitting your survey.
3. You consent for the anonymous information you provide to be used for the purposes of this research study.