Virtual Work Integrated Learning for Engineering Students

Participant Information Form

**Purpose of the project:** This project will develop and test virtual work integrated learning modules for engineering students.

**Project team:** The project is funded by the Australian Government Office for Learning & Teaching ID15-4951, The University of Western Australia, Engineers Australia, the Australian Council of Engineering Deans, and CingleVue International. The Project is led by Dr Sally Male at UWA and also undertaken by the Project Team: Professor Farid Boussaid, Professor Mohammed Bennamoun, and Professor James Trevelyan (The University of Western Australia (UWA)); Associate Professor Nicoleta Maynard and Professor Moses Tade (Curtin University); Professor Ian Cameron (The University of Queensland); Dr Ferdous Sohel (Murdoch University); Dr Michael Pointing (CingleVue International); Dr David Pointing (Engineers Australia); and Emeritus Professor Douglas Hargreaves (Australian Council of Engineering Deans).

**Aim of the project:** The project aims to develop virtual work integrated learning modules for engineering students. These will complement the opportunities for engineering students to be exposed to engineering practice. Engineering students will experience the transformative benefits of workplace integrated learning without a real placement. They will learn about engineering practice; develop authentic communication, teamwork, and management skills; visit sites; network; discover engineering roles; receive feedback from engineers; reflect; and develop lifelong learning skills. A sustainable model will be developed to maintain and expand use.

**Participant recruitment:** Participation is voluntary. Forum participants will be invited by emails from project team members. Invitations to students will be emailed to students by a staff-member at the student’s university.

**Consent:** Participants indicate consent to participate by signing a consent form.

**What happens to the data?** Written responses collected in forums and surveys will be transcribed. Audio-recordings of plenary discussions in forums will be transcribed. Forum facilitators and the Project Lead will remove identifying details and any personal comments from the transcripts before sharing these with the Project Team for analysis. The transcripts are the property of the researchers and will be stored securely on the UWA Institutional Research Data Store.

**Is your anonymity protected?** Information that you provide will not be released by the investigators in any form that may identify you except as follows. You may indicate on the consent form that you agree to being acknowledged by name. In this case you may be acknowledged in resulting publications, but your identity will not be linked to comments without additional permission from you to be identified as a contact in publications. The only exceptions to these principles are if documents are required by law.

**Can you withdraw from the project?** You are free to at any time to withdraw consent to further participation without prejudice in any way. Participants need give no reason or justification for such a decision. In such cases, their records are destroyed if they can be identified unless otherwise agreed by the participant.

**What are the risks and inconveniences of the project?** There is no health risk involved and the only inconveniences are volunteering your time. Forums will be three hours long.

**What are the long term outcomes?** Engineering students will have additional exposure to engineering practice at all levels of their programs.

**Questions or concerns:** Approval to conduct this research has been provided by the University of Western Australia, in accordance with its ethics review and approval procedures. 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 person not satisfied with the response of researchers may raise ethics issues or
concerns, and may make any complaints about this research project by contacting the Human Ethics
Office at the University of Western Australia on (08) 6488 3703 or by emailing to
humanethics@uwa.edu.au

All research participants are entitled to retain a copy of any Participant Information Form and/or
Participant Consent Form relating to this research project.