Tendering Module for Virtual Work Integrated Learning for Engineering Students

INTERVIEW AND FOCUS GROUP

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FORM

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

Project team: The project is part of a larger project funded by the Australian Government Office for Learning & Teaching ID15- 4951, The University of Western Australia, Curtin University, Engineers Australia, the Australian Council of Engineering Deans, and CingleVue International. This part of the Project is supervised by Dr Sally Male at UWA and undertaken by the Master of Professional Engineering Students: Mr Owen Clark, Mr Jun Sun and Mr Bing Zhang.

Aim of the project: The overarching project aims to create virtual work integrated learning modules for engineering students. By ‘work integrated learning’ we mean learning in which students learn about engineering practice and develop capabilities for engineering practice. The modules are ‘virtual’ in the sense that they simulate engineering practice but students will not be in real engineering workplaces. In the modules created in the current project, students will work on preparing and evaluating an authentic engineering tender.

Participant Recruitment: Participant engineers and academics will be invited directly by the project supervisor by email. Participant students will be invited by the supervisor through an email sent through learning management systems in an engineering unit taken by masters engineering students and not taught by the supervisor. Two to three senior engineers will be interviewed. A focus group of two engineers, two engineering students, and two academics will be held. All interviews and the focus group will be conducted by Mr Owen Clark and Mr Jun Sun. The interviews will be undertaken at a venue convenient to each participant. The focus group will be held at UWA.

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

What happens to the data? The interviews and focus group will be recorded and transcribed. The interviewers will remove all 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 the anonymity of participants protected? Information that you provide will not be released by the investigators in any form that may identify you except as follows. If you are not a student, 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. 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 withdraw consent to further participation without prejudice in any way. You need give no reason or justification for such a decision. If you withdraw from the study, identifiable data collected from you will be destroyed. However, anonymised data cannot be destroyed.

What are the risks and inconveniences of the project? There is no health risk involved and the only inconveniences are volunteering time to complete the survey. Interviews and focus groups will be no longer than 90 minutes each. Whether and how students participate will not affect their enrolment, assessment, or relationship with staff at The University of Western Australia. The workshop is not related to a unit or assessment.

What are the long term outcomes? Engineering students will have additional exposure to engineering practice at all levels of their programs.
How are the data published? Findings will be reported in Jun Sun’s and Owen Clark’s final year project reports, which will be unpublished, and in their final year presentations at UWA. Summaries of the research and the resulting learning modules are likely to be described in conference and journal papers and the final report for the overarching project. Learning modules will be outputs of the project and eventually engineering students from across Australia will complete the learning modules as part of their engineering education.

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 (RA/4/3/8540). 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.