PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

- You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve.
- Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish.
- Take time to decide whether you wish to take part. Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.

What is the purpose of the study?
The study forms the basis of a PhD thesis and its purpose is to create a conceptual framework of effective approaches for Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL). The study will inform educational provision in higher education and in the wider context, will improve the educational experience for online learners.

The aims of the study are:
1. To explore the expectations and needs of diverse learners and develop a taxonomy of learners’ needs.
2. To investigate current and emerging pedagogies for engaging students with creative and collaborative learning online and assess their value with a diversity of learners and educators.
3. To incorporate the findings into a framework for effective learning approaches for diverse students, drawing recommendations on personalising TEL for student academic development.
4. To develop a conceptual framework for factors that influence digital inclusion and exclusion.

Why have I been chosen?
We would value your participation as a student at a Higher Education Establishment involved in online programs.

Do I have to take part?
There is no obligation for you to participate. We appreciate your time is at a premium but would welcome your contribution to inform future use of online learning programs. Your experiences will provide valuable data, recommendations and information that may be used in publications including conference proceedings and journal articles.
**What do I have to do?**
You will be asked to complete an online survey. Afterwards, the surveys will be analysed as part of my PhD thesis. Data generated will be kept in a secure location and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and at completion will be destroyed.

**What are the possible disadvantages?**
Apart from requiring some of your time, we can think of no other disadvantages of participation.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**
Your participation will inform educational provision and could potentially improve e-learning programs.

**Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**
Comments made on the survey will be handled in strictest confidence by the interviewer. Bournemouth University may be identified in the content of reports and publications. You will not be identifiable in any reports or papers published as part of this project.

**What will happen to the results of the research study?**
The results of this study will inform the researcher's PhD Thesis. There may also be reports and published papers, including future conference presentations and journal articles that will be informed by these findings and could include quotations or information from the survey.

**Who has reviewed the study?**
The study has been reviewed and agreed by the researcher's Supervisors who are Academics at Bournemouth University.

**Contact for further information?**
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**Thank you for taking part in the Study**