

## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

### Questionnaire Participants

**Project Title:** Exploring inclusiveness in the Engineering Industry

**Principal Investigator:**

Dr Kelly Blincoe, Senior Lecturer, Department of Electrical, Computer and Software Engineering, Te Herenga Mātai Pūkaha

**Researchers:**

Dr Priyanka Dhopade, Lecturer, Mechanical Engineering, Te Herenga Mātai Pūkaha

Dr Penelope Watson, Senior Lecturer, School of Learning Development and Professional Practice, Te Kura Akoranga me Te Tauwhiro Tangata

Dr Tom Allen, Senior Lecturer, Mechanical Engineering, Te Herenga Mātai Pūkaha

Dr Hazim Namik, Professional Teaching Fellow, Mechanical Engineering, Te Herenga Mātai Pūkaha

**Purpose of the Study**

This study is funded by the Faculty of Engineering and is being undertaken to better understand the experiences of Engineering graduates in the workplace during the first five years of their careers, particularly in relation to their own identity. The goals for this longitudinal study are to:

- understand the factors that underpin satisfaction and attrition within the engineering sector, and
- identify changes that can be made to engineering practices to improve the retention of historically excluded groups in engineering.

**Participant Involvement**

We are seeking Engineering students from all specialisations and Computer Science students who will complete their coursework in November 2023 to participate in a longitudinal study. The study will commence after you have completed all of your coursework and will involve invitations to complete quarterly online questionnaires over a period of five years designed to capture information on your experiences in your workplace. Each questionnaire will take approximately 15min to complete. Participants will be asked to sign a consent form prior to participation.

If you are a student of the researchers, the Dean of Engineering gives their assurance that your participation or non-participation in this study will have no effect on your grades or relationship with the University. You may contact your academic head should you feel that this assurance has not been met.

- A summary of the findings will be available to interested participants who request one on the consent form.
- After submitting the questionnaire participants may also be invited to attend an interview, for which there will be a separate Participant Information Sheet and consent form provided.

If you wish to participate in this study but would prefer to do so in Te Reo Māori, you are welcome to contact the researchers directly to request a translation of the questionnaire and associated documents.

**Right to Withdraw from Participation**

Participation in this research is entirely voluntary. All questions are optional so may be skipped if preferred. You can also exit the questionnaire at any point before submission and your answers will not be recorded. Once you have

submitted your responses, if you would like to withdraw your data, please contact the PI to request your data be withdrawn within two weeks of submitting your responses. While the research is meant to be longitudinal in nature, you can withdraw from the research study at any time without giving a reason.

### **Minimisation of Harm**

Potential risks from participating in this research could arise from considering personal experiences and one's sense of identity. If anything in this questionnaire provokes strong emotions for you, we encourage you to seek support from any of the counseling services available to you. Two free helplines and text services that provide 24/7 confidential support are:

- LIFELINE HELPLINE 0800 543 354 OR TEXT 4357
- SUICIDE CRISIS HELPLINE 0508 828 865

For cultural support, if you are a student at the University of Auckland, the Student Support Advisor in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Auckland (Steve Roberts) can be contacted at [s.roberts@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:s.roberts@auckland.ac.nz). If you are not a student at the University of Auckland, Emerge Aotearoa provides cultural support. You can find their contact details at <https://emergeaotearoa.org.nz/contact-us/>.

### **Confidentiality and Anonymity**

The questionnaire is not anonymous. However, all identifying information will be kept confidential to only the research team and their research assistants. Identifying information will also be kept separate from all other collected data (linked to the other data by participant ID number). The research findings may be published in an academic conferences and/or journals. The publication(s) will not identify any participants as their source and will not provide detailed demographic information about you that would make it possible for someone to identify you. If any personal information about a non-participant is shared, this information will be removed from the data prior to analysis to ensure anonymity of non-participants. Consent forms will be stored separately from the collected data.

### **Project Funding and Third-Party Involvement**

This Project is funded by the Faculty of Engineering, University of Auckland.

### **Data Usage, Storage and Retention**

The data will be stored on the University of Auckland server. The data will be stored indefinitely. After the minimum storage time (six years) has elapsed, if it is determined that the data is no longer needed, the data will be destroyed. Electronic data will be deleted.

### **Researcher Contact Details:**

If you would like more information on this study, or the questionnaire itself, please feel free to contact the Principal Investigator directly.

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### **Head of Department:**

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**UAHPEC Chair Contact Details:**

For any queries regarding ethical concerns you may contact the Chair, The University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee, Office of Research Strategy and Integrity, The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142. Telephone 09 373-7599 ext. 83711. Email: [humanethics@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:humanethics@auckland.ac.nz).

Approved by the University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee on 13 October 2022 for three years.  
Reference Number UAHPEC24847.