



UAE During COVID19

PARTICIPATION INFORMATION SHEET and CONSENT FORM FOR STUDENTS (Survey Questionnaire)

Dear Student

This is an invitation for you to participate in a study conducted by researchers at the University of Wollongong in Dubai and European Network for Academic Integrity. The research is called ***International Contract Cheating Project (iCOP)***. The investigators of this study have been keen to understand the issue of contract cheating, its prevalence among students, reasons, student awareness of policies, attitudes, perceptions, and practices, in particular during the months following COVID19 pandemic, the lock down and distance learning. As second round of the study, we are now conducting this study to understand how studying from home and engaging in the digital platform for education may be shaping the impact of essay mills (companies that write assignments for students for a price). In participating, you will benefit by understanding the issues surrounding contract cheating and in turn your response will help the investigators explore ways to support students in the future and ensure sustainable learning experience for all

Investigator

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UAE Campus Leads include:

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International Project Team

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WHAT WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO

If you choose to participate you will be asked to be involved in a 10 minute survey about your attitude and practices regarding remote learning experience you had in the past few weeks due to the COVID 19 lock down. The survey will be recorded as online questionnaire. Typical questions include:

(STUDENT)

- Cheating can be defined as an act of deception for profit to yourself – do you agree?
- Why do you think other students engage in academic misconduct?
- Are you aware of anyone who has ever been caught for submitting an assignment that was done for them by someone else?

These are some sample questions you may find in this survey.

Please remember you are free to choose NOT to answer any question that you may find distressful. Apart from taking 10-minutes, **we can foresee minimal risk of apprehension for you because the topic is academic misconduct**. At any time, if you feel distressed by the questions, please feel free to stop and ask the research assistants for assistance. Our research assistants will be able to guide you and if need be, refer you to the counsellor for support. You are free to decide if you want to be involved in this project or not and you can stop participating at any time ***before you submit this survey***. The survey is anonymous in nature and the **questionnaires with their responses** will not be shared with your University. Independent research assistants have been hired by the researchers to conduct the survey and hand over the results to us. This study is being carried out as part of the investigator's cross-border research between UAE and Australia. If you decide to help us in this study, you will provide us with valuable information about how to best understand how universities can develop a culture of integrity in their campuses. One or more academic publication papers may arise from the findings and subsequent analysis, but we will not use any indicative information that relates to you or your University in any part of the research. The final published paper(s) may be shared with your University or other academic institutions.

Disclaimer: Please note any act of cheating or e-cheating either on paper, during examinations, or while writing a report, as copying from others with or without their permission or plagiarism in reports or essays is observed as serious offence at academic level and should not be indulged in any way. Please note your responses will have no legal implications on yourself or others. However, no specific examples should be disclosed in any way. If any illegal examples are disclosed the researcher has an obligation to report it to the relevant authorities.

ETHICS REVIEW AND COMPLAINTS

This project has been reviewed by the Human Research Ethics Committee at the University of Wollongong, Reference (2018/528). If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research please contact the Ethics Manager on 02 4221 4457 or email rso-ethics@uow.edu.au.

Thank you for your interest in this study.