

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Students of ENG1012, ENG1013

**Project ID: 35753**

**Project title: Understanding students' experiences of fairness in team formation and team dynamics processes**

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### Researchers

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You are invited to take part in this study. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact the researchers via the email addresses listed above.

Participating in this research is *voluntary* and you will not be disadvantaged if you choose to *not* participate.

### What does the research involve?

The aim of this study is to understand how procedural justice impacts team formation and subsequent team dynamics. Procedural justice is about fairness in decision making, and we seek to understand what helps and hinders procedural justice as well as developing and validating a measure for procedural justice in engineering team work.

For this research, you will be asked to complete an online questionnaire (16 questions taking around 12 minutes), be willing to be observed as you work in your teams, and participate in an optional, voluntary semi-structured interview. We will be linking the questionnaire results with your ITP Metrics questionnaire results to understand team dynamics.

It would help the researchers if the interviews were audio recorded, but only with your consent.

### Why were you invited for this research?

You are invited to participate in this research as you are currently enrolled in ENG1012 and ENG1013 and undertaking team work. If, after reading this explanatory statement you are willing to take part in this research, both researchers are happy to answer any questions.

### Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

Participation is voluntary and you are under no obligation to consent to participation. If you agree to participate in the online questionnaire, your consent will be recorded at the beginning of the questionnaire. The questionnaire is not anonymous, as the results need to be linked to the IPT Metrics questionnaire, but once linked, responses will be de-identified. If you agree to being observed or to being interviewed, you will need to sign the consent forms which are sent to your contact emails and addresses and return the forms to the researcher's contact emails and addresses. After you have signed and returned the consent form, there is still no expectation that you will answer any question that you do not wish to. You will have the right to withdraw from the research or further participation at any stage. If you do not consent for your ITP metrics results to be part of this research, the research team will not include any of these in their data collection and analysis.

## **Possible benefits and risks to participants**

Although there are no direct benefits to you from taking part, the study will benefit educators and students by helping to understand how to best develop student teamwork skills (an engineering Level 1 competency and valuable lifelong skill) in engineering students, with an emphasis on procedural justice. We do not believe there will be any particular inconvenience or discomfort in taking part in this research, other than giving up a bit of your time.

## **Confidentiality**

We will ask for your name on the procedural justice questionnaire so that we can analyse your responses with your responses from the ITP Metrics questionnaire. Once the responses are linked, the data will be de-identified. All data will be stored confidentially, requiring password access and only accessible to the researchers. Interview results and any published data will be de-identified with pseudonyms. Pseudonyms and de-identified data will be used when the results are presented at conferences and published.

Interviewed student groups will be described using pseudonyms and group participants will agree to keep group interview comments confidential on the consent form. Data will be transcribed by a research assistant, Yola Szymakowski, or the other researchers, using otter.ai.

## **Storage of data**

The data collected will be stored in accordance with Monash University regulations, kept on University premises, in drives with protected password and in a locked cabinet. The data will be saved in drives with protected password and the hard copies (such as interview transcription) will be saved in a locked cabinet in Monash University. Only the researcher will be able to have access to the data.

The data will be disposed of after 5 years. All the soft copies will be deleted from all the sources, and all the hard copies will be destroyed by shredder.

## **Use of data for other purposes**

N/A

## **Results**

If you would like a copy of the final research project report and/or other related publications, please let the researchers know.

## **Complaints**

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC):

Executive Officer  
Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)  
Room 111, Chancellery Building D,  
26 Sports Walk, Clayton Campus  
Research Office  
Monash University VIC 3800

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Thank you,

**Professor Nicoleta Maynard**

**Yola Szymakowski**