



Information Letter – Student Participants

September 15, 2009

Project Title: Improving Statistical Literacy Through On-line Learning and Practice: Learning objects for a practical approach for non-mathematicians.

Dear Potential Participant,

You are invited to take part in the **research project** identified above which is being conducted by *Taras Gula*, Professor in the *Mathematics and Statistics Health Information Management (HIM) Program* and principal investigator, *Julie Gaudet*, Professor in the *School of Nursing* at George Brown College, *Dr. Mina Singh*, Assitant Professor in the *School of Nursing* at York University (co-investigators).

This research project examines *the learning from the use of learning Objects in Mathematics and Statistics for non-mathematics*. The purpose of the research project is to evaluate interactive online modules of learning objects to help students review and/or learn mathematics and statistics content.

Who can participate in the research?

We are seeking students involved in Mathematics and Statistics Courses in Nursing (GBC, York University) and Health Information Management (GBC) programs to participate in this research.

What choice do I have?

Participation is **entirely voluntary**. If you decide to participate, you may withdraw from the project at any time without giving a reason. The researcher(s) may also withdraw a participant if it is considered in the participant's best interest or it is appropriate to do so for another reason. If this happens, the researcher(s) will explain why and advise you about any follow-up procedures or alternative arrangements as appropriate.

All information collected will be confidential. All information collected will be stored securely with the Principal Investigator and kept for a period of five years. At no time will any individual be identified in any reports resulting from this study.

What will I be asked to do?

- Providing an email address as userid and sharing non-identifying demographic information (e.g., School and course of study, gender, status - guest or subject, use of textbook alongside website, self-rated computer literacy),
- Taking a pre-test of math or stat questions,

- Engaging in the activities of the Learning Object,
- Completing a Usability Survey,
- Taking a post-test of math or stat questions.

What are the risks and benefits of participating?

None

How will the information collected be used?

The results data will be reported to the funding agency, Inukshuk, and presented at scientific meetings and published in an appropriate journal. The results will be shared with interested participants in an aggregated fashion so that no participants are identified.

What do I need to do to participate?

Please read this Information Letter and be sure you understand its contents before you consent to participate. If there is anything you do not understand, or you have any questions, please contact the Principal Investigator (see contact information below).

If you would like to participate, please *sign the consent form, then:*

- *Go to the website (www.estatmath.com)*
- *Create a userid and secure password*
- *Complete the pre-test*
- *After that you can access any of the modules you are interested in learning from. You will then review the content, answer as many practice questions as you would like to on as many modules you would like to.*
- *Complete a Usability Survey while you are using the site*
- *Complete the post-test after you think that you have learned everything from the Learning Object.*

Thank you for considering this invitation,

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Co-Investigators: Julie Gaudet (GBC), 416 415-5000 ext. 3952, & Dr. Mina Singh (York U.), 416-736-2100 ext. 66439.

This project has been approved by the George Brown College Research Ethics Board, Approval No. 00073

Should you have any concerns about your rights as a participant in this research, or you have a complaint about the manner in which the research is conducted, it may be given to the researcher or, if an independent person is preferred, to the Vice-President, Applied Research, Casa Loma Campus, Room C302.