

Participant Information Sheet

Project title: Students' behaviours when answering STACK questions

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You are invited to take part in a study that we are conducting as part of a research project investigating how students interact with e-assessments.

This study has received ethical approval from the ethics committee of the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Durham University.

Before you decide whether to agree to take part it is important for you to understand the purpose of the research and what is involved as a participant. Please read the following information carefully. Please get in contact if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

What is the purpose of the study?

The aim of this survey is to investigate students' interactions with e-assessments.

One of the limitations of e-assessment is that it can't capture your *process*: the steps you take to get to the final answer, and the different methods you try. This can be frustrating from a feedback perspective – you want to get credit for the work you put in – but it also means that, as lecturers, we don't get an insight into your perspective on the course. We're interested to see whether you tend to use a pen and paper as you work, how helpful you find your lecture notes or your calculator, and whether you're using tools we're not even thinking about.

What is involved?

We will ask each participant to come along to two interviews: one in Week 2, and one in Week 8.

At each session, you will first work through a couple of STACK questions. The interviewer might ask you to talk about your thought process as you work, and take notes on what you are doing.

Afterwards, there will be a short interview (15-20 minutes) about how you found the questions, and how you see STACK in general. The whole interview should take around 45 minutes.

Do I have to take part?

Your participation is voluntary, and you do not have to agree to take part. If you do agree to take part, you can withdraw at any time, without giving a reason. Every question on the survey is optional and you can skip over any questions you do not want to answer.

What will happen to my data?

Your data will be held and stored in accordance with the University's privacy policy.

You can find information about the University's responsibilities for data protection and your rights under data protection legislation in the University's [privacy notice](#).

We will remove your name and anything else we use to identify you once all interviews have been completed.

We are conducting this project alongside colleagues in Southampton and Zurich. The anonymised data will be shared with other members of the project team.

Your data will not be held for longer than ten years.

You can withdraw from the interview at any time. If you want to withdraw your responses after the interview has finished, we will do our best to find and remove them from the dataset. However, because the data will be anonymised once all interviews are completed, this might not be possible.

What will happen to the results of the project?

The findings of the survey may be disseminated through conference presentations, journal articles, website publications, and other research avenues. Any quotations from your responses we use will be used anonymously, and any identifying information will be removed as much as possible.

The survey forms part of a longer-term project, and our findings may be used in later publications as the project develops.

Who do I contact if I have any questions or concerns about this study?

If you have any further questions or concerns about this study, please contact the researchers at s.m.fearn@durham.ac.uk or clare.wallace@durham.ac.uk. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please submit a complaint via research.policy@durham.ac.uk.

Thank you for reading this information and considering taking part in this study.