



## **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

### **Project Title:**

Maths Futures Digital Resources and Micro-credentials

### **Invitation**

I would like to invite you to take part in a research study. Before you decide you need to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Ask questions if anything you read is unclear or you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not to take part.

The project is being undertaken by Dr Emma Coutts. The project has been approved by the Heriot-Watt University School of MACS ethics committee.

### **What is the purpose of this project?**

This project will create digital resources for pre-university mathematics aligned with SCQF levels 4-6. The resources will comprehensively cover foundational mathematics topics while providing engaging examples and contemporary applications to showcase mathematics' relevance and excitement – we aim to challenge the perception of mathematics. Alongside the resources, we will develop a series of micro-credentials, each with bespoke assessments; learners can complete these anywhere at their own pace.

The resources can be used standalone, or as support for the micro-credential pathway. They will be open to anyone who wants to use them, from schools and colleges to non-traditional learners such as those who are home-schooled, returning to education or simply have an interest in learning mathematics.

An important part of the project is gathering information from end-users such as teachers and pupils to ensure that the resources are delivered in an effective way, will meet the needs of the users and open access to mathematics (and therefore subjects which rely on mathematics) by providing alternative educational routes.

### **Do I have to take part?**

Taking part is voluntary. You may choose not to take part or to decide to stop taking part at any time without giving a reason. You may choose to take part in one section of the study or the whole process, you can withdraw at any time.

### **What will happen if I take part?**

The information gathering phase of the project consists of focus groups and follow-up surveys. The focus group will be an in-person, guided discussion which will be sound-recorded to allow for accurate transcription. The discussion will be led by a facilitator with open-ended questions related to the project, aimed at gathering information and opinions on digital learning resources for mathematics.

The follow-up survey will be shaped by the results of the focus-groups and aimed at gathering more detailed information about the emergent themes from the focus-groups. You will be asked to complete these online.

Development stage: There will also be the opportunity to test the resources and give feedback throughout the development of the resources and micro-credentials. This will also be online and will require you to review sections of the materials and provide your feedback. These materials will have varying formats such as notes, exercises, quizzes, videos and other interactive elements.

### **Time commitment**

The focus-group will take approximately 1 hour. The survey will take around 30 minutes to complete.

The ongoing feedback stage, throughout development, will take varying amounts of time and there is no requirement to do all (or any) of it. Your level of involvement in this stage can be decided by you and your commitments at the time.

### **Compensation and payments**

Participation is voluntary. There is no compensation for time or expenses or other payments for taking part in this study.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Participating in this study gives you the opportunity to share your opinions and experiences of teaching/learning mathematics while directly influencing the development of digital learning resources which will be available to you and to the wider public.

### **What are the possible risks of taking part?**

There are no known risks to you in taking part in this study

### **What will happen if I don't wish to carry on with the study?**

If you decide that you no longer wish to take part you can withdraw at any time without giving a reason. Please inform the project leader Dr Emma Coutts [e.coutts@hw.ac.uk](mailto:e.coutts@hw.ac.uk).

### **Privacy and confidentiality**

Heriot-Watt University is the data controller for the personal data collected in this project. This means that we are responsible under data protection law for making sure your personal information is kept secure, confidential and used only in the way you have been told it will be used.

Only the research team will have access to the personal information that you provide (which will be minimal) and they will anonymise it as soon as possible.

We will keep your personal information securely and ensure that no one will be able to link the research data you provide to any identifying information you may supply. No information that could identify you will appear in any report on the results of this research.

We will collect and use your personal data for this project only with your consent. You can withdraw your consent at any time until the data is fully anonymised by contacting the researcher, supervisor or the data protection team. If you withdraw from the study all personal data collected from you will be securely destroyed.

However, it will not be possible to remove your data from the project once it has been anonymised as we will not be able to identify your specific data. This does not affect your data protection rights.

If you would like to know more about what Heriot-Watt University does with your personal data and your rights under privacy law, please visit our data protection web pages at <https://www.hw.ac.uk/about/policies/data-protection.htm> or contact our Data Protection Officer by email at [dataprotection@hw.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@hw.ac.uk).

### **What happens at the end of the project?**

The research team will use the findings of the research to shape the production digital learning resources for pre-university mathematics.

After the project ends, we may use the anonymous dataset for research outputs such as articles and conference presentations and we may keep it permanently for archival purposes.

### **What if I have questions or concerns?**

If you have questions about any aspect of this study, please contact

Dr Emma Coutts [e.coutts@hw.ac.uk](mailto:e.coutts@hw.ac.uk)

If you have a concern or complaint about the study please contact:

[macs-ethics-committee@heriotwatt.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:macs-ethics-committee@heriotwatt.onmicrosoft.com)

If you have any questions or concerns about the use of your personal data or your rights under data protection law please contact [dataprotection@hw.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@hw.ac.uk)

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for your interest in this research.

If you decide to take part, you will be given a copy of this information sheet and a record of your agreement to keep.