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|  | **CHIEF INVESTIGATOR (SUPERVISOR)  Kalervo Gulson**  *Chief Investigator (Supervisor)*  *Professor of Education* | | Room 904  Education Building  The University of Sydney  NSW 2006 AUSTRALIA  Email: kalervo.gulson@sydney.edu.au  Web: <http://www.sydney.edu.au/> |

The role and value of ‘edvisors’ in Australian Higher Education

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT**

1. **What is this study about?**

You are invited to take part in a research study aboutthe way that learning and teaching educator advisors (called ‘edvisors’ in this study) in Australian Higher Education work collaboratively with academics and institutional management. The term edvisors is used as an umbrella term for people working as learning designers, education technologists, academic developers and in other similar roles.

You have been invited to participate in this study becauseyou are workingin this kind of role and you have experience and knowledge about the kind of work edvisors do and how you interact with academics and institutional management. This Participant Information Statement tells you about the research study. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the study. Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that you don’t understand or want to know more about.

Participation in this research study is voluntary.

By giving consent to take part in this study you are telling us that you:

* Understand what you have read.
* Agree to take part in the research study as outlined below.
* Agree to the use of your personal information as described.

You will be given a copy of this Participant Information Statement to keep.

1. **Who is running the study?**

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

* Colin Simpson, PhD candidate, The University of Sydney

Colin Simpson is conducting this study as the basis for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at The University of Sydney. This will take place under the supervision of Kalervo Gulson, Professor of Education, Lina Markauskaite, Professor of Education, and Dr Jessica Frawley.

There are no potential or actual conflicts of interest for researchers and/or institutions involved in the project.

There are no financial benefits to the researchers or institution that might arise from the conduct of the research.

1. **What will the study involve for me?**

Your involvement in this study will be in one or two parts.

Firstly, you will complete a short survey about yourself, your work and background as an edvisor, and some of your perceptions of the role.

Secondly, you may be invited to be interviewed about your professional background and work as an edvisor, including your understanding of how these kinds of roles are perceived by your peers, academics and institutional managers.

If you accept, this interview will be conducted over a web conferencing system such as Zoom. Audio and video of the interview will be recorded – or just audio if you prefer – to assist in transcribing the interview. You will be given access to the recording and transcript to clarify points or make amendments before the interview data is used in the study.

1. **How much of my time will the study take?**

The survey should take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. The interview is expected to take approximately 60 minutes.

1. **Do I have to be in the study? Can I withdraw from the study once I've started?**

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part. Your decision whether to participate will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at the University of Sydney.

If you decide to take part in the study and then change your mind later, you are free to withdraw at any time. You can do this byemailing the organiser of the study, Colin Simpson, at csim8899@uni.sydney.edu.au

You are free to stop the interview at any time. Unless you say that you want us to keep them, any recordingswill then be erased and the information you have provided will not be included in the study results. You may also refuse to answer any questions that you do not wish to answer during the interview.

1. **Are there any risks or costs associated with being in the study?**

Aside from your time, we do not expect that there will be any other risks or costs associated with taking part in this study.

1. **Are there any benefits associated with being in the study?**

We cannot guarantee that you will receive any direct benefits from being in the study. All eligible respondents to the survey can elect to go into a random draw for one of four $50 gift cards.

The overall goal of this study is to gather data that will lead to better understanding of the work and roles of edvisors and their place in Higher Education. It is hoped that over time, this may inform improvements to workplace practices relating to the collaborative relationships that edvisors have with academics and institutional managers. As an edvisor, in the long-term you could potentially benefit from these changes.

1. **What will happen to information about me that is collected during the study?**

The data that we will collect about you will include general demographic information such as age, gender, education and professional background. It will also include your responses on questions relating to the roles, practices and status of edvisors. Audio/video recordings of your interview responses will be kept only for the purpose of transcription. These recordings may be shared with third party transcription service providers. Nobody else will have access to your data, except as required by law. Any data that you provide will be de-identified.

You can access your personal data during the study by contacting Colin Simpson via email ([csim8899@uni.sydney.edu.au](mailto:csim8899@uni.sydney.edu.au)). Your information will be stored securely on a local personal hard drive and on the University of Sydney Research Data Store and your identity/information will only be disclosed with your permission, except as required by law. Study findings may be published, but you will not be identified in these publications*.*

The main place this data will be published will be in Colin Simpson’s PhD thesis. It may also be used in other publications including journal articles, conference papers or books.

By providing your consent, you are agreeing to us collecting personal information about you for the purposes of this research study. Your information will only be used for the purposes outlined in this Participant Information Statement, unless you consent otherwise.

1. **Can I tell other people about the study?**

Yes, you are welcome to tell other people about the study.

1. **What if I would like further information about the study?**

When you have read this information, Colin Simpsonwill be available to discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have. If you would like to know more at any stage during the study, please feel free to contact Colin Simpson, PhD candidate, by email [csim8899@uni.sydney.edu.au](mailto:csim8899@uni.sydney.edu.au) or on 0422 678 449

1. **What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the study?**

Research involving humans in Australia is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the HREC of the University of Sydney (Ethics approval 2019/895)*.* As part of this process, we have agreed to carry out the study according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007).* This statement has been developed to protect people who agree to take part in research studies.

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the university using the details outlined below. Please quote the study title and protocol number.

The Manager, Ethics Administration, University of Sydney:

* + **Telephone:** +61 2 8627 8176
  + **Email:** [human.ethics@sydney.edu.au](mailto:human.ethics@sydney.edu.au)
  + **Fax:** +61 2 8627 8177 (Facsimile)

*This information sheet is for you to keep*