

APPENDIX 8

CONSENT TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND/OR PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH PROJECT

Project Title

Exploring the relationship between cooperative group learning and critical thinking in accounting students

Researcher

Edward Tew, PhD Student, Faculty of Business and Law, Bristol Business School

You are being asked to participate in a research project conducted through Bristol Business School, University of West of England.

Nature and Purpose of the Project

The research project will explore the relationship between cooperative group learning and students' critical thinking.

By knowing more about how students learn in groups, particularly in relation to their critical thinking, we hope to improve the student learning experience.

This research project will use, as its context, your Case Study and Individual Reflective Report assignments.

There are two elements to this project:

- 1. Access to documents that you will produce for the purposes of the assignment: presentation handouts and related documents, Reflective Workbook and Individual Reflective Report.*
- 2. Participation one or both of the following:*
 - a. Interview*
 - b. Focus group (group discussion with a small number of other students)*

Consent for access to documents

If you are willing for the researcher to access documents mentioned above, please sign and date **Part A and fill in Part C** of the attached form.

Consent for participation

If you are willing to take part in an individual interview or focus group (or both), please sign and date **Part B and fill in Part C** of the attached form.

Nonparticipation

Participation in this project is voluntary. There will be no penalty if you decide not to be in the study. If you decide not to be in the study, it will not affect your grade of the module.

Confidentiality

All data collected for this project by way of individual interview or focus group will be kept strictly confidential. Only the researcher will have access to this information. Extracts from interviews, focus groups and assessment documents (individual reflective report, records of group learning/meetings and learning journals) may be quoted within the PhD thesis or other reports. Such extracts would be anonymous, through the use of a pseudonym.

Withdrawal from the Project:

Your participation in this research project is completely voluntary. You may decide to withdraw from this project at any time. If you wish to do so, please contact the researcher.

Who to call if you have any questions:

If you have concerns or questions about the conduct of this research project you may contact:

*Edward Tew
Edward2.tew@live.uwe.ac.uk
Room 4C7*

What Signing These Forms Mean:

By signing these consent forms, you agree to participate in this research project by:

- 1. Part A: Allow the researcher to access the documents required for this study.*
- 2. Part B: Participate in an individual interview or focus group (or both) for this study.*

The nature and purpose of the study and requirements of your participation have been explained to you in detail. You can refuse to participate or withdraw from this research project at any time without penalty. Refusal to participate in this study or withdrawal from this study will have no effect on any services you may otherwise be entitled to and from Bristol Business School. You will be given a copy of this consent form.

Participant Consent Form – Part A

I have read and fully understood the information for participants. I am aware of the procedures involved in this study. I freely chose to participate in this study and understand that I can withdraw at any time.

I also understand that the research is strictly confidential and that no-one other than the researchers has access to the documents and individual data held.

I hereby agree to allow the researcher to access the documents required for this study.

Signed by:

Name

Student identification no.

Student email address

Student mobile number

Signature

Date

Participant Consent Form – Part B

I have read and fully understood the information for participants. I am aware of the procedures involved in this study. I freely chose to participate in this study and understand that I can withdraw at any time.

I also understand that the research is strictly confidential and that no-one other than the researchers has access to the documents and individual data held.

I hereby agree to participate in an individual interview or focus group (or both) for this study.

Signed by:

Name

Student identification no.

Student email address

Student mobile number

Signature

Date

Part C: Tell Us About Yourself

1. Gender

Male ()

Female ()

2. Age:

3. Nationality:

4. At home I speak

Only English ()

Only our mother tongue ()

Both ()

5. Education Background: Please tick any that apply to your background.

A level ()

Degree ()

Professional Degree ()

Others, please state:

6. Did you study any module on critical thinking before?

Yes ()

No ()