

Plain Language Statement

1. Study title and Researcher Details

The role of 3D technologies in the development of virtual learning and training in SMEs.
You can contact the Researcher at any time:

Katharine Jewitt
Email: k.jewitt.1@research.gla.ac.uk

2. Invitation paragraph

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

Thank you for reading this.

3. What is the purpose of the study?

The research explores the strategies employees adopt for learning and contributes to current debates about lifelong learning. The aim of the research is to investigate the use of virtual worlds to support training and learning in the workplace.

The research uses Second Life which is a multi-user three-dimensional virtual world that was started by the US firm Linden Lab in 2003 and accessed through the internet. You will design an avatar and carry out work training and work activity using your 'second life' avatar online.

You will be asked questions about working in the virtual world. You'll be asked questions like "Have you faced any difficulties in working in the virtual world?" and "what are the advantages of learning in this format?".

4. Why have I been chosen?

I am asking if you would be involved because your use of 3D learning can help us in making learning and training better and you might find it interesting to have the opportunity to share your thoughts and experiences.

5. Do I have to take part?

You do not have to be in the study. If you do not want to be involved, please return the consent form. And remember, if you decide to be in the study but later you change your mind, then you can advise us of this at any time.

6. What will happen to me if I take part?

If you decide to take part in this study you will be asked to complete a series of short questionnaires that will be sent to you to complete, following a series of training sessions that will take place using 3D technology.

7. Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

The things you say and any information I write about you will not have your name with it, so no one will know they are your answers or the things that you did. Only the researcher will access the information. Nobody else will see the answers you give.

8. What will happen to the results of the research study?

The data collected will be used anonymously in written reports, presentations and published papers relating to the study.

9. Who has reviewed the study?

The study has been reviewed by the Management Team at your organisation and by the Researcher and her Supervisor at the University of Glasgow.

10. Contact for Further Information

If you have any concerns regarding the conduct of the research project you can also contact the convener of the College of Social Sciences Research Committee, Dr Valentia Bold at valentia.bold@glasgow.ac.uk

Sample of Consent Form:

I am willing to take part in this research, and by signing below I give my permission for the data collected to be used anonymously in any written reports, presentations and published papers relating to this study.

IF YOU WANT TO BE IN THE STUDY, SIGN AND PRINT YOUR NAME ON THE LINE BELOW:

Your name, printed: _____

Your signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return your signed form using the stamped addressed envelope provided.

Please keep the information sheet for future reference.