



School of Education
University of New England
Armidale NSW 2351
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Fax: 61 2 6773 2445
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www.une.edu.au/education

INFORMATION SHEET FOR CHILD PARTICIPANTS

NOTE: This page remains with you for your records.

Research Project:

The Australian Science Enrolment Project

Dear student,

You are invited to take part in a research project looking at students' attitudes and enrolment choices towards their different subjects, particularly Science, in secondary schools. The research is to be conducted between 2014 and 2017. My name is John Kennedy and I am conducting this research as part of my PhD in the School of Education at the University of New England. My supervisors are Dr Terry Lyons, Dr Frances Quinn and Professor Neil Taylor. The details of the study are below and we hope you will consider being involved.

Aim of the Study:

This study aims to understand when, how and why students become less likely to choose a Year 11 or 12 science course compared to their other school subjects.

Time Requirements:

You will be requested to log on to a web site once per term. Each time you will be requested to complete a simple electronic survey. This should take no more than 20-30 minutes for the first time and less than 10 minutes for the next rounds of the survey.

Outline of the study

We know that although students enter Year 7 looking forward to doing Science, fewer students are actually choosing to study a Science course in Year 11 or 12 than at any time in the last 20 years. While we know about some of the reasons for this, we do not know what the most important factors are, or when they impact. This study over 4 years aims to try to identify the relative effects of the different factors for making their decisions, and when they are most felt by students.

Prize Draw

All students who complete three rounds of the survey in each year will be automatically entered into a prize draw to win a share of \$100 of iTunes¹ gift cards. Winners will be randomly selected by computer and notified by e-mail after the draw.

Confidentiality:

The results of this research will be presented in my thesis and may also be published in journals and at conferences. However, you will not be identified in any reports.

Please note that your participation in this study is completely voluntary and you are free at any time to withdraw your consent from the project without having to give a reason and without consequence.

Any information or personal details gathered in the course of the study will remain confidential. You will not be identified by name in any publication of the results. All names will be replaced with a code (e.g. Student X) ensuring that you will not be identifiable. Data will be kept on a secure computer server and will only be accessible by the researchers. Any printouts will be kept in a locked filing cabinet in the principal researcher's office. Identifying data will be kept for five (5) years following completion of the study and then deleted securely or, in the case of printouts, destroyed.

¹iTunes is a registered trademark of Apple Inc. Apple Inc. is in no way associated with this study.



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It is unlikely that this research will raise any personal or upsetting issues but if it does you may wish to contact your local Community Health Centre.

Research Process:

It is anticipated that this research will be completed by the end of 2017. The results may also be presented at conferences or written up in journals without any identifying information.

This project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of the University of New England (Approval No. HE13-116 Valid to 04/07/2016)

Should you have any complaints concerning the manner in which this research is conducted, please contact the Research Ethics Officer at the following address:

Research Services
University of New England
Armidale, NSW 2351.
Telephone: (02) 6773 3449 Facsimile (02) 6773 3543
Email: ethics@une.edu.au

Participating:

To accept this invitation and participate in this project, please ask your parents/guardians to visit <http://asep.une.edu.au/register> to complete the consent form online. You will then be e-mailed a link so that you can complete this assent form electronically and participate in the project. **Your School Access Code is XXXX.** Alternatively, complete the Assent form for Participants (attached). Your parents/guardians must also complete the Consent form for Participants. It is very important that you include your e-mail address on this form as it will be used to send you your unique access code for the project website <http://asep.une.edu.au>.

Kind regards,

Mr John Kennedy

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Assent Form for Child Participants
Research Project: *The Australian Science Enrolment Project*

CONFIDENTIAL

1. I have read the information contained in the Information Sheet for Participants and any questions I have asked have been answered to my satisfaction.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
2. I agree to participate in the online survey realising that I may withdraw at any time without being penalised or disadvantaged in any way.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3. I understand that my participation is voluntary, that I can choose not to participate in all or part of the project.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
4. I understand that any data that the researcher extracts from the survey for use in reports or published findings will not, under any circumstances, contain names or identifying characteristics.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
5. I agree that any comments I make may be included in reports and publications.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

6. What is your name?

First Name:

Last Name:

7. Are you male or female? Female Male

8. What is your date of Birth? - -

9. What is your best contact e-mail address?

10. What is the name of your school?

Suburb

Signature:

Date:

Please return this completed form, together with you parent's/guardian's consent form to your coordinator at school, or direct to Mr John Kennedy at the address shown on the information letter.