

## How people engage with computer coding.

*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.*

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

The study aims to examine how undergraduate students in physics engage with computer coding and the reasons behind this..

### **Who is involved in this study?**

The principle investigator, Dr Matthew Mears, is responsible for collating and making responses anonymous. A collaborator from the University of Sheffield will be responsible for the analysis of the anonymous data.

### **What will be involved if I agree to take part in this study?**

You will be presented with an online survey comprised of multiple sections, each with a short series of questions to complete. The entire study should take no more than 20 minutes. There will be no further components required to take part in this study.

### **What if I change my mind after giving consent?**

You are able to withdraw consent at any time, without providing any explanation. To withdraw from the study please contact Dr Mears using the details below.

### **What other information will be collected in the study?**

At the end of the questions you will be asked to give details including your current level of qualifications. Any such additional information will be kept confidential and only used for group analysis. No information collected can be used to identify you as a participant.

### **Will the information obtained in the study be confidential?**

Yes. The survey will not ask for your name, and responses will be given a unique random identification code before analysis.

### **How is confidentiality maintained?**

Any information relating to the study will be encrypted and stored securely. We will not collect any personal identifiable information during the experiment and data obtained from the tasks will be made anonymous before analysis.

### **Who can I contact for further information or if I have any questions / problems / wish to withdraw?**

You can withdraw from the study at any time, without giving a reason for doing so. You can contact us by telephone (0114 2224259) or by email (m.mears@sheffield.ac.uk). If you wish to withdraw from the study you only need to contact Dr Mears to inform him – you do not need to provide any reason for withdrawing.

### **What if I wish to complain about the way in which this study has been conducted?**

If you have any cause to complain about any aspect in which you have been treated during the course of this study please use the details below.

If you have any complaints or concerns please contact the head of department:

Name: Professor Paul Crowther

Telephone: 0114 222 4273

### **Contact for further information**

For further information or if you want help or advice please contact Dr Mears via m.mears@sheffield.ac.uk