

**Participant Information Sheet** (For Adults / Students aged 13 to 15, 17)

You are invited to participate in a research study. This information sheet provides you with information about the research. Kindly read the information below and ask questions if you have anything that you do not understand before deciding whether or not to take part.

**1. Project title**

A Research Study to Understand the Nurturing of Critical and Inventive Thinking in General Education

**2. Principal Investigator and co-investigator(s), if any, with the contact number and organization**

Principal Investigator:

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Co-investigators:

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**3. What is the purpose of this research?**

This research study aims to explore and understand the learning objectives, pedagogical approaches, and programs for Critical and Inventive thinking in general education, including primary, secondary, and high-school (junior college) levels.

**4. Who can participate in the research? What is the expected duration of my participation? What is the duration of this research?**

Students who currently enrolled in the educational programmes in Singapore, and school personnel who have either experienced part of the general education curriculum or currently worked in Singaporean schools are going to be recruited in this research. All the participants are invited for online surveys. A few of the participants may be invited for an online interview via zoom/skype in needs of any clarification. The total online survey will take approximately 30 to 40 minutes and the follow up online interview (if any) will last 30 minutes to maximum. The expected duration of this research would be 6 months starting from upon IRB approval to the end of October 2020.

**5. What is the approximate number of participants involved?**

Up to 245 participants (147 school personnel and 98 students) would be involved in this project. The total of 49 different schools, including 25 Primary schools, 20 Secondary schools, 4 Junior Colleges are participating in this study.

**6. What will be done if I take part in this research?**

All the participants, including students, school leaders and teachers, will be given with online survey forms to make their inputs based on their experiences of the current curriculum in school typically related to Critical and Inventive Thinking. If a participant is selected for an online interview after review, we will invite the participant to our online interview to ask a few follow up questions regarding his/her responses on the surveys.

**7. How will my privacy and the confidentiality of my research records be protected?**

Only the point-of-contact from each school will have your identifiable information (e.g. names.) and this will not be released to any other person, including members of this research team. Also, identifiable information will never be used in a publication or presentation. All your identifiable information and research data will be coded (i.e. only identified with a code number) at the earliest possible stage of the research.

**8. What are the possible discomforts and risks for participants?**

Participants may be exposed under stress when answering open-ended questions. For this, they have the option to opt out from the online surveys and interview at any time.

**9. What is the compensation for any injury?**

There is no physical or mental injury to be expected since the research involves no more than minimal risk to the subjects. No compensation for any research-related injuries will be available.

**10. Will there be reimbursement for participation?**

In appreciation for the participation, each participant will receive an exclusive set of Designed-In-Singapore souvenirs from DesignSingapore Council.

**11. What are the possible benefits to me and to others?**

There will be no direct benefit to you by participating. However, the research hopes to benefit the Singaporean research community, Dsg and MOE, and provide indicators of how the current general education curriculum may be advanced to nurture Critical and Inventive Thinking. The study findings would help us plan appropriate programmes to enhance students' Critical and Inventive Thinking in general education in Singapore.

**12. Can I refuse to participate in this research?**

Yes, you can. Your decision to participate in this research is voluntary and completely up to you. You can also withdraw from the research at any time without giving any reasons, by informing the principal investigator and all your data collected will be discarded.

**13. Whom should I call if I have any questions or problems?**

Please contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Arlindo Silva or Attn: Dr. Dongwook Hwang at **telephone: 9299 6484** and **email: [dongwook\\_hwang@sutd.edu.sg](mailto:dongwook_hwang@sutd.edu.sg)** for all research-related matters.

For an independent opinion regarding the research and the rights of research participants, you may contact the SUTD Institutional Review Board (Attn: Ms Jasmine Tan, at telephone 6499 4985 or email at [irb@sutd.edu.sg](mailto:irb@sutd.edu.sg)).