

## Information Letter

**Title of Project:** VR study: Priming and measuring presence

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### Study Overview

I am a postdoctoral researcher of the Games Institute at the University of Waterloo conducting research under the supervision of Dr. Lennart Nacke

You are invited to participate in a research study about the nature of experiences in Virtual Reality and the accuracy of measuring them. In the scholarship, technologically deterministic approach to the experiential factors is the dominant one, along with the certain measurements of the virtual experiences, which are not always considered valid and/or reliable tools. This study aims to overcome these conventions to improve the VR research.

### What You Will Be Asked to Do

Participation in the study will consist of a 30-minutes VR experiment, so we can understand how individuals experience virtual environments. You would need to engage/observe a virtual environment and then share your experiences via a questionnaire and a short interview.

### Participation and Remuneration

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may decide to end your participation in the experiment at any time. To thank you for your time, you will receive a \$10 gift card. If you decide to end your participation early, please let the interviewer know that and provide them with your email to still receive the e-gift card. Your email will be deleted as soon as you receive the gift-card (unless it is the same email that you provided to receive the results of the study). The amount received is taxable. It is your responsibility to report this amount for income tax purposes.

### Personal Benefits of the Study

You can receive additional background information about the study, otherwise, there are no personal benefits to participation. In general, results of this study will possibly make VR more accessible and immersive.

### Risks to Participation in the Study

Using a Head Mounted Display (HMD) may induce a little motion sickness, although the total use of HMD will not exceed 3-4 minutes, which is not enough to cause motion sickness, according to research. Nevertheless, you should inform the researcher about any issues and discontinue participation immediately if you experience any symptoms of motion sickness, however mild.

### Confidentiality

This study is anonymous in that it will not ask for your name or other identifying information (except for the e-mail address to send you the gift card, which will be deleted once the gift card was sent out). The experiment will be video-recorded once the session starts, i.e., your face will not be fully seen, as well as the short interview will be audio-recorded. The

recordings will be destroyed once researchers finish the study. Collected data will be securely stored on password protected computers for a minimum of 7 years. You can request your data be removed from the study up until June 1, 2024, as it is not possible to withdraw your data once papers and publications have been submitted to publishers. For this, please email the researchers.

### **Questions and Research Ethics Clearance**

This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through a University of Waterloo Research Ethics Board (REB **45900**). If you have questions for the Board contact the Office of Research Ethics, at 1-519-888-4567 ext. 36005 or [reb@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:reb@uwaterloo.ca).

For all other questions, after receiving this letter, or if you would like additional information to assist you in reaching a decision about participation, please feel free to ask the investigator or a faculty supervisor listed at the top of this sheet. As well as, after participating, if you want to receive a copy of the results, please email the primary investigator.

Thank you for your interest in our research and for your assistance with this project.