



Western Sydney University Project Boost Participant Information Statement

What is Project Boost?

This project aims to give students the best possible learning experience at University. One way the Western Sydney University Student Experience Office is doing this is by finding new ways of supporting students, such as using helpful text messages that could help you stay on track in one of your units. This is a pilot, to test whether Project Boost works at Western Sydney University. You might nominate a Supporter, and we might send weekly texts to you and your Supporter during Spring Semester. The texts may become more frequent as exams approach. These texts will ask your Supporter to check in with you about your unit, and you can have these conversations whenever and wherever suits you. If we don't ask you to nominate a Supporter, you should simply attend your classes as usual.

What will I be asked to do?

- We might ask you for your contact information and the contact information of someone you know (who you will choose).
- We will ask you to give Western Sydney University permission to send your student information including your grades, unit enrolments, and demographic information, to two researchers at the Behavioural Insights Team (who are not part of Western Sydney University), regardless of whether you nominate a Supporter and receive text messages or not.¹
- We'll ask you to allow the Western Sydney University Student Experience Office to know whether you signed up to the pilot and whether you received text messages.
- We'll offer you and your Supporter (if you nominate one) the voluntary opportunity to complete a short survey at the end of Spring Semester 2019.

How much of my time will this take?

- The sign-up process should take about 10 minutes
- If you receive text messages, you may be prompted to talk to your nominated Supporter about your Western Sydney University studies. You can choose to do this at any time you would like, and in any setting, for as long as you want.
- The voluntary end-of-Semester survey should take about 10 minutes to complete.

How will this benefit me or the community?

You won't be paid for participating, and neither will your Supporter. If you complete the sign-up process by the end of Week 1 of Spring Session, we will put you in the draw to win a Visa card preloaded with \$1,000. If you complete the sign-up process by the end of Week 2, the prize is a Visa card preloaded with \$500, and a Visa card preloaded with \$250 if you sign-up by the end of Week 3. Depending on how many other students sign up, and which week they sign up, your chances of

¹ If you like, we can provide you with a record of any of your personal data that Western Sydney University shares with the Behavioural Insights Team. We need to link your grades with whether or not you received text messages, so we know whether the messages helped the group of Western Sydney University students who were sent messages. Your data will only be used for the purpose of this research, and will never be made public.

winning are between 3 in 2,000 and 1 in 2,000. Your academic performance may benefit from having a Supporter who you nominate encourage you during Spring Session. This benefit depends on which group you are randomised to when you sign-up for the study, so you will have a 1 in 2 chance of gaining this benefit. We're also hoping that the results of this research will give us valuable insights that will help other students with their studies.

Are there any risks to me if I participate?

We don't think so, but you and your Supporter are free to leave the study or stop the text messages at any time after you sign up. If you would like more information before you decide whether or not to participate, please contact Natalie Bradbury (Student Experience Office Strategy and Performance Manager) at boost@westernsydney.edu.au.

How is the study being funded?

This project is funded under the 'Try, Test and Learn' fund administered by the Department of Social Services.

Who is running the study?

You are invited to participate by the Western Sydney University Student Experience Office. This research study has been approved by the head of your School and is under the supervision of Natalie Bradbury in the Student Experience Office. The Student Experience Office has partnered with the Behavioural Insights Team (BIT), an independent social purpose research organisation, to bring Project Boost to Western Sydney University. BIT works with a range of organisations, including Universities around Australia, to investigate what works to improve the learning experiences of students. Part of how the team improves things is to ask students like you to volunteer for test runs of a program we think might work. For more information about BIT, visit www.bi.team.

What happens to my data from this study? Are you going to publish or disseminate the results?

If you sign the consent form, you will give BIT permission to tell the Western Sydney University Student Experience Office if you signed up to the pilot and whether you received text messages, and for Western Sydney University to send your student information including grades and unit enrolments, and demographic information such as your age and nationality, to two researchers in the Behavioural Insights Team. Only these two BIT researchers will have access to your data, and all data will be anonymised at the end of the study (i.e. at the end of Spring Semester 2019). We expect to publish the overall results from this study, but we will never identify any individual participant. Anything we publish will be summary or group data. Please note that the minimum retention period for data collection is five years post-publication. The data and information you have provided will be archived following this period, which restricts who will be able to see it.

Can I withdraw from the study?

You are not required to participate in this study, and you can withdraw at any time without giving a reason. If you are receiving text messages, you can stop them at any time by replying 'STOP'. However, this will not withdraw any data already collected. You will need to withdraw from the study to delete this data. To withdraw from the study at any time, contact Natalie Bradbury (email: boost@westernsydney.edu.au). If you do choose to withdraw, any information that you have supplied will be securely deleted: we will permanently delete any of your responses in our sign-up form from the dataset, and remove your contact information from our text messaging platform.

Additional information for Supporters

- You may be prompted to talk to the student who nominated you about their Western Sydney University studies. You can choose to do this at any time you would like, and in any setting, for as long as you want.
- We'll offer you the voluntary opportunity to complete a short survey at the end of Spring Semester 2019
- You can opt-out of receiving text messages at any time by replying STOP.
- Your details (i.e. your first name and contact number) will only be used for the purposes of sending you text messages as part of the Project Boost pilot in Spring Semester 2019.

What if I require further information?

Please contact Natalie Bradbury (Student Experience Office Strategy and Performance Manager; email: boost@westernsydney.edu.au) should you wish to discuss the research further before deciding whether or not to participate.

What if I have a complaint?

If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this research, please contact Natalie Bradbury (ph: 02 4736 0513, email: boost@westernsydney.edu.au). This study has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee at Western Sydney University. The ethics reference number is H13274. This means that you may also contact the Ethics Committee through Research Engagement, Development and Innovation on ph: 02 4736 0229 or email humanethics@westernsydney.edu.au. Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.