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Participant information sheet

I am a PhD student at Lancaster University, and I would like to invite you to take part in a research study investigating the use of mobile applications (apps) amongst adults in learning to play a musical instrument. Please take time to read the following information carefully before you decide whether or not you wish to take part.

What is the study about?

This study aims to explore adult experiences when learning to play an instrument using a mobile application. As part of my research study, I am learning to play the piano using the JoyTunes app, Simply Piano. My aim is to compare my experiences those of others to discover the following:

- The feelings and emotions associated with learning an instrument using a mobile app
- The challenges and obstacles associated with learning an instrument using a mobile app
- The motivations for wanting to learn an instrument using a mobile app

Why have I been invited?

I have approached you because you have experience of learning an instrument using a mobile app which I feel will help to answer my research questions. I would be very grateful if you would agree to take part in this study.

What will I be asked to do if I take part?

If you decided to take part, this would involve 1 interview lasting up to 1 hour (maximum) conducted remotely using Zoom. During this time, I will ask you some questions relating to your experience. The interview will be recorded.

Do I have to take part?

No. It's completely up to you to decide whether or not you take part. Your participation is voluntary.

What if I change my mind?

If you change your mind, you are free to withdraw at any time during your participation in this study. If you want to withdraw, please let me know, and I will extract any ideas or information you contributed to the study and destroy them. However, it is difficult and often impossible to take out data from one specific participant when this has already been anonymised or pooled together with other people's data. Therefore, you can only withdraw up to 2 weeks after taking part in the study.

What are the possible benefits from taking part?

Taking part in this study will allow you to share your experiences of using a mobile application to learn an instrument. sites. Your insights will contribute to our understanding of adults using mobile applications to learn.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

It is unlikely that there will be any major disadvantages to taking part.

Will my data be identifiable?

The interview will be recorded using Zoom. Audio and video will be separate as only the audio is needed. After the interview, only I, the researcher will have access to the ideas shared. Audio from the interview will be uploaded to Rev.com where it will be transcribed. If you wish to know more about how Rev.com handle security and privacy, you can visit their webpage for further information <https://www.rev.com/security>.

I will keep all personal information about you (e.g. your name and other information about you that can identify you) confidential, that is I will not share it with others. I will remove any personal information from the written record of your contribution.

How will we use the information you have shared with us and what will happen to the results of the research study?

I will use the information you have shared with me only in the following ways:

- I will use it for research purposes only. This will include my PhD thesis and other publications, for example journal articles.
- I may also present the results of my study at academic conferences

When writing up the findings from this study, I would like to reproduce some of the views and ideas you shared with me. I will only use anonymised quotes (e.g. from my interview with you), so that although I will use your exact words, all reasonable steps will be taken to protect your anonymity in our publications.

How my data will be stored?

Your data will be stored in encrypted files (that no-one other than me, the researcher will be able to access them) and on password-protected computers. I will store hard copies of any data securely in locked cabinets in my office. I will keep data that can identify you separately from non-personal information (e.g. your views on a specific topic). In accordance with University guidelines, I will keep the data securely for a minimum of ten years.

What if I have a question or concern?

If you have any queries or if you are unhappy with anything that happens concerning your participation in the study, please contact myself. If you have any concerns or complaints that you wish to discuss with a person who is not directly involved in the research, you can also contact the programme director Don Passey.

This study has been reviewed and approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Lancaster Management School's Research Ethics Committee.

Thank you for considering your participation in this project.