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**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT FOR ACADEMICS**  
**Research Project**

**Title: Experiences of coordinators, teachers and students in mathematics bridging courses**

**Researchers:** Sue Gordon (Senior Lecturer, Mathematics Learning Centre, University of Sydney, Tel: (61 2) 93514061, [s.gordon@usyd.edu.au](mailto:s.gordon@usyd.edu.au)), Jackie Nicholas (Head, Mathematics Learning Centre, University of Sydney, Tel: (61 2) 93514061, [j.nicholas@usyd.edu.au](mailto:j.nicholas@usyd.edu.au)).

We are carrying out a research project investigating mathematics bridging courses from the perspectives of developers/coordinators, teachers and students. What are the goals of developers? What do teachers see as the particular challenges of teaching bridging courses? What do students expect to achieve and how do the bridging courses affect their ongoing study of mathematics in first year university? An aim of this study is to explore effective approaches to teaching and learning in mathematics bridging courses. We are also trying to identify associated challenges and potentially improve advice to prospective students.

If you are involved in or teaching or coordinating/developing a mathematics bridging course in 2010 or have done so in the past 5 years, we would be most interested in hearing your views and invite you to participate. We plan to carry out interviews via email. We will send you about six questions and ask you to respond to them. Then we may send you a few more questions designed to explore your responses in a little more depth, and ask you to respond once again. We may then have one or two more questions at the final stage. You will be asked to respond to at most three emails.

The questions and the responses you make will be copied into a file and any identifying information will be removed: you will be given, or can choose, a pseudonym. The complete collection of interviews will be analysed in this form. The original emails will be deleted from our files (although you are free to keep your copy). Any summary or publication will be in a form in which individual participants are not identifiable (except your own contribution by yourself).

Participants in previous studies have found that interviews of this type can stimulate their thinking and development. We will also undertake to send you a copy of our analysis when it is complete and alert you to resulting publications. This may give you useful ideas about teaching and learning in mathematics.

If you are willing to participate in this project, we ask you to read the accompanying **Participant Consent Form** and send an **email** message to Sue on [s.gordon@usyd.edu.au](mailto:s.gordon@usyd.edu.au) indicating your consent to participate in the research. Alternatively, you may sign the **Consent Form**, and **fax** it to **Sue Gordon on 61-2-93515797**.

Being in this study is completely voluntary – you are not under any obligation to consent and – if you do consent – you can withdraw at any time without affecting your relationship with the University of Sydney or the researchers.

If you do not wish to continue, you have the right to request that all your emails be deleted and that information provided will not be included in the study.

If you would like to know more at any stage, please feel free to contact Sue Gordon or Jackie Nicholas.

**Any person with concerns or complaints about the conduct of a research study can contact the Deputy Manager, Human Ethics Administration, University of Sydney on (02) 8627 8176 (Telephone); (02) 8627 7177 (Facsimile) or [human.ethics@usyd.edu.au](mailto:human.ethics@usyd.edu.au) (Email).**



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**PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM**

If you would like to participate in this research please send an **email** message to Sue on **s.gordon@usyd.edu.au** indicating your willingness to participate in this research and include your full name and email contact details in the message. Receipt of this email will be taken as consent as per this form.

**Alternatively** you may print a copy of this page, fill in your details as requested below, sign it, and **fax** it to **Sue Gordon on (61 2) 93515797**.

(61 2 is the international and area code for Sydney and 93515797 is the fax number.)

- I willingly agree to participate in the study: *Experiences of coordinators, teachers and students in mathematics bridging courses* to be conducted by Sue Gordon and Jackie Nicholas.
- I have read and understood the purpose of the study as explained in the Participant Information Statement and that my participation involves participating in at most three email interviews.
- I understand that all email interviews will be recorded and stored for research purposes.
- I am informed that to ensure confidentiality, no names or other identifying information will be recorded nor mentioned in any publications relating to this project. The information obtained will not be used for purposes other than this research study.
- I am aware that I am under no obligation to participate in the study; my participation is purely voluntary, and that I may withdraw from the study at any time without affecting my relationship with the University of Sydney or the researchers. Upon withdrawal, I have the right to request that all or part of any recorded material of myself is disposed.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(please print your full name)*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Email contact details: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(please print your email address)*

*Please retain a copy of the Information Statement and Consent Form for your records.*