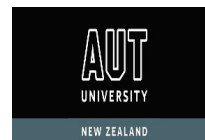


Participant Information Sheet (Professional Participants)



Doctoral Research Project- Auckland University of Technology (AUT)

Project Title: Smart Airport Framework: Investigating the Interplay of Architecture, Operational Efficiency, and Passenger Experience in New and Transitioning Airports

Researcher: Sameer Srinivas (Doctoral Candidate)

Supervisors: Dr Mahesh Babu Purushothaman, Prof. Amirhosein Ghaffarianhoseini, Prof. Ali Ghaffarianhoseini.

What is the purpose of this research?

This doctoral research project investigates how smart airports are designed and developed by exploring the interaction between airport architecture, operational efficiency, and passenger experience. The aim is to create a framework that can support the planning and transformation of smart airports. Your professional insights will help shape this framework based on practical industry experience.

What will participants be asked to do?

To be eligible, you must have a minimum of 3 years of professional experience in areas such as airport operational efficiency, terminal architecture, digital transformation, or infrastructure planning.

Please note: *You are being invited to participate in your individual professional capacity, not as a representative of your employer. Your insights should be based on general industry knowledge, not organisation-specific practices or confidential information.*

If you agree to take part, you will participate in a semi-structured interview lasting approximately 45-60 minutes, conducted online via Microsoft Teams at a time that is convenient for you. The interview will be tailored to your specific area of expertise, focusing on your professional experiences with airport planning, operations, or passenger-related services.

Participation is entirely voluntary. You may decline to answer any question and may withdraw at any time before or up to two weeks after receiving your transcript for review.

How will my privacy be protected?

With your permission, the interview will be recorded, transcribed, and anonymised. Your name, organisation, or any identifiable information will not be used in reports or publications.

Only the researcher will have access to the complete recordings and transcripts. Supervisors will only view anonymised data for guidance and quality assurance.

What are the risks?

This research poses minimal risk. The interview topics are professional and non-sensitive. You may skip any question at any time. You will be given the opportunity to review and amend your transcript before the interview data is analysed.

What are the benefits?

While there are no direct personal benefits, your contribution may inform better airport practices, planning strategies, and policy decisions. The findings may also support academic and industry development in smart infrastructure and passenger-centred design.

What happens to the data?

All interview data (audio, transcripts, notes) will be securely stored on AUT OneDrive for 6 years and then permanently deleted in accordance with AUT's research data policy. Consent forms will be stored separately.

What happens if I change my mind?

You may withdraw from the study up to two weeks after receiving your transcript. After that point, anonymised data may already be included in the analysis.

Who can I contact if I have questions or concerns?

Primary Researcher: Sameer Srinivas – sameer.srinivas@autuni.ac.nz

Primary Supervisor: Dr Mahesh Babu Purushothaman - mahesh.babu@aut.ac.nz

This research has been approved by the Auckland University of Technology Ethics Committee.

AUTEC Reference Number: 25/251

If you have any concerns about your rights as a participant, you may contact:

AUTEC Secretariat, Auckland University of Technology Ethics Committee (AUTEC), Email:
ethics@aut.ac.nz