



*University of Johannesburg.*  
*P O Box 524 Auckland Park, 2006*  
Tel: + 27 11 559 4555  
[www.uj.ac.za](http://www.uj.ac.za)

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### **Participant Information Sheet**

**Title of study:** Employing Total Quality Management (TQM) in South African Higher Education Institutions to improve quality Engineering Education.

Dear Participant.

My name is Oriel Mhlongo, and I am currently pursuing my MPhil in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Johannesburg. As part of my research, I am conducting a study on the possible advantages and challenges of implementing Total Quality Management (TQM) principles in South African universities to significantly improve the quality of engineering education.

The aim of the study is to investigate how TQM principles can be applied to improve the quality and efficiency of engineering education at South African universities. The purpose is to identify current challenges, stakeholder perceptions, and key success factors associated with implementing TQM in engineering faculties. The objectives include examining existing challenges, exploring how TQM can address these issues, understanding barriers and enablers, collecting stakeholder perceptions, and determining critical success factors for effective TQM adoption in this context.

This research has been reviewed and approved by the Ethics and Plagiarism Committee (FEPC) of the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment at the University of Johannesburg.

**Ethical Clearance Number: UJ\_FEBE\_FEPC\_01561**

The survey is designed to be concise and will take approximately 20-25 minutes to complete. Your responses will be kept confidential, and your email address will not be collected. Data collected will be used solely for academic purposes. To participate in the survey, please follow this link: <https://forms.gle/bacebvsy23chJjYr7>

Your participation is entirely voluntary, and you may choose to withdraw from the survey at any time without any negative consequences.

Thank you in advance for your time and valuable contribution to this research. Your insights and experiences are vital in helping me understand and improve the quality of engineering education in South Africa through the application of TQM principles.

Should you have any queries or comments regarding this survey, you are welcome to contact me, the researcher [222198058@student.uj.ac.za](mailto:222198058@student.uj.ac.za) or my supervisor, Mrs. R. Steenkamp at [rsteenkamp@uj.ac.za](mailto:rsteenkamp@uj.ac.za).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'O' with a horizontal line through it, followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ms. Oriel Mhlongo  
MPhil Student in Mechanical Engineering  
University of Johannesburg

### **Consent to participate in this survey**

I have read the Participant Information Sheet and understand the purpose and nature of this research study survey. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I can withdraw at any time without penalty. I agree to complete the survey and provide my responses for the purposes of this research. I have read and understood the information provided above. I understand the purpose of the study, what my participation involves, and my rights as a participant. I agree to take part in this research study voluntarily.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)

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

Researcher's Declaration: I confirm that I have provided the participant with adequate information about the study.

Name of Researcher: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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