

1 Main Road, Vulindlela
KwaDlangezwa
3886
20 September 2025

Dear Teaching and Learning Staff

My name is Pungwa Lwandile from the University of Zululand (UNIZULU) Faculty of Humanities Social Science, Department of Communication Science, 067 368 7414 , and lwandilepungwa@gmail.com and 201859087@stu.unizulu.ac.za.

You are being invited to consider participating in a study that involves research titled: **The Adoption of Artificial Intelligence as a Teaching and Learning Tool at Selected South African Universities. The aim and purpose of this research are to determine how the adoption of artificial intelligence for teaching and learning has progressed in South African higher educational institutions.** The study is expected to enrol 10 participants from one campus of one higher education institution in South Africa. It will involve the following procedure, semi-structured Interviews as data collection method. The duration of your participation, if you choose to enroll and remain in the study, is expected to be one month (September 2025). The study is funded by the National Research Fund.

The study will provide no direct benefits to participants. This study has been ethically reviewed and approved by the UNIZULU Research Ethics Committee (approval number: UZ-REC 0691-008).

In the event of any problems or concerns/questions, you may contact the researcher at (067 368 7414, and 201859087@stu.unizulu.ac.za or supervisor(s) Prof Naidoo at +27 (035) 902 6164 and NaidooG@unizulu.ac.za or Dr Moonasamy at 07341114341 and MoonasamyA@unizulu.ac.za) or the UNIZULU Ethics Committee, contact details as follows:

University of Zululand, Research Ethics Committee (UZREC)

Research & Innovation Office

Manager – Research Ethics & Postgraduate Studies: MangeleS@unizulu.ac.za

at: +27 (0) 35 902 6324 or at: +27 (0) 35 902 6056

House 22, Next to Old VC House, 1 Main Road, KwaDlangezwa, 3886

Participation in this research is voluntary, and participants may withdraw participation at any point. In the event of refusal/withdrawal of participation, participants will not incur penalties or loss of assistance in attaining support. Should participants wish to withdraw from the study, they can contact me via telephone or message at 067 368 7414 or lwandilepungwa@gmail.com and 201859087@stu.unizulu.ac.za. Termination of participation by the researcher can be done if participants are unavailable for data generation sessions or unresponsive to communications after the third attempt. Participants have a choice to participate, not participate, or stop participating in the research. They will not be penalised for taking such an action. Their involvement is purely for academic purposes only, and there are no financial benefits involved. There will be no costs incurred by participants and there are no incentives or reimbursements attached to participants' participation. You will be allowed to answer questions about the study and have answers to your satisfaction.

Anonymity (pseudonym usage) and confidentiality are guaranteed as participants' inputs will not be attributed to participants in person but reported only as population member opinions. Any information given cannot be used against participants, and the collected data will be used for purposes of this research only. Data will be stored in secure storage and destroyed after 5 years.

CONSENT

I _____ have been informed about the study entitled: **The Adoption of Artificial Intelligence as a Teaching and Learning Tool at Selected South African Universities** by Pungwa Lwandile.

I understand the purpose and procedures of the study: **To determine how the adoption of artificial intelligence for teaching and learning has progressed in South African higher educational institutions.** Semi-structured Interviews data collection methods.

I have been allowed to answer questions about the study and have had answers to my satisfaction.

I declare that my participation in this study is entirely voluntary and that I may withdraw at any time without affecting any of the benefits that I am usually entitled to.

I have been informed about no financial benefits for participation.

If I have any further questions/concerns, or queries related to the study, I understand that I may contact the researcher at 067 368 7414 , and lwandilepungwa@gmail.com and 201859087@stu.unizulu.ac.za.

If I have any questions or concerns about my rights as a study participant, or if I am concerned about an aspect of the study or the researcher then I may contact the supervisor(s): Prof Naidoo at +27 (035) 902 6164 and NaidooG@unizulu.ac.za or Dr Moonasamy at 07341114341 and MoonasamyA@unizulu.ac.za) or :

University of Zululand, Research Ethics Committee (UZREC)

Research & Innovation Office

Manager – Research Ethics & Postgraduate Studies: MangeleS@unizulu.ac.za

at: +27 (0) 35 902 6324 or at: +27 (0) 35 902 6056

House 22, Next to Old VC House, 1 Main Road, KwaDlangezwa, 3886

Additional consent

I hereby provide consent to:

Audio-record my interview/focus group discussion

YES / NO

Signature of Participant

Date