

Appendix B



LETTER OF INFORMATION

Title of the Research Study : *“An investigative analysis of Building Information Modelling in Architecture, Engineering and Construction Programmes at South African Higher Education Institutions”*

Principal Investigator/s/researcher: Andile Ntokozo Sangweni, Master’s Candidate, BSc. (Hons) in Quantity Surveyor, BTech: Quantity Surveying, ND: Building

Co-Investigator/s/supervisor/s: Co-supervisor- Dr Zakheeya Armoed & Main Supervisors- Prof Ayodeji Olatunji Aiyetan

Brief Introduction and Purpose of the Study:

Building Information Modelling (BIM) has become a pivotal technology in the global Architecture, Engineering, and Construction (AEC) industry, enhancing collaboration throughout project lifecycles. To align with industry needs, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) globally have started incorporating BIM into their curricula to prepare graduates for the modern demands of the AEC sector. However, in South Africa, BIM adoption in HEIs lags behind due to challenges such as a lack of qualified faculty and effective implementation strategies. This gap in adoption is compounded by insufficient research focused on addressing these issues within the South African educational context. Therefore, this study aims to explore the current state of BIM adoption in South African HEIs, identifying key barriers and potential benefits to inform better integration strategies.

Dear Research Participants

My name is Andile Ntokozo Sangweni, I am doing a Master in Built Environment degree in the Department of Construction Management and Quantity Surveying at Durban University of Technology, in Durban, South Africa. I am conducting a research entitled: *“An investigative analysis of Building Information Modelling in Architecture, Engineering and Construction Programmes at South African Higher Education Institutions”*.

I would like to invite you to participate in this research project. Research is a systematic search or enquiry for generalized new knowledge. Your participation would play a crucial role in making this project a success. The main aim of conducting this research is to explore the current state of Building Information Modelling (BIM) adoption into the AEC programmes in South African Higher Education Institution context. Therefore, to achieve the goal of this research project, this exploration would be undertaken by administering questionnaire

specifically to the academic staff who is mainly responsible for teaching and/or curriculum development. The questionnaire would consist of the following sections:

- **Section A: Biographical Information**
- **Section B: Assessment of the Current State of BIM adoption in South African Higher Education Institutions**
- **Section C: Building Information Modelling (BIM) hindering factors**
- **Section D: Benefits of BIM Integration into the AEC Programmes**
- **Section E: Strategies for Enhancing BIM Integration into the AEC Curriculum**
- **Section F: Open-ended Questions**

You are kindly requested to complete the accompanying questionnaire, which requires no personal identifiers such as names. Participation is entirely voluntary, and you may withdraw at any time without any repercussions. The completion of the questionnaire should take approximately 20 to 25 minutes. Please be assured that all data collected will remain anonymous and will only be used for research purposes. There are no foreseeable risks associated with your participation in this study. Ethical standards will be rigorously upheld to protect your rights as a participant, ensuring a high level of confidentiality and anonymity. This will be ensured by not collecting any personal information such as identification numbers or contact details. The collected data will be analyzed by the researcher and included in a dissertation that will be stored securely at the DUT premises for five years before being destroyed. You have the right to discontinue participation at any point, without affecting your standard of care. Your cooperation is highly valued and greatly appreciated.

Participants will not receive any monetary remuneration or bear any costs related to their involvement in this study; participation is completely voluntary and cost-free. The research findings will be disseminated through academic publications, conference presentations, and educational forums to share knowledge with the academic community and enhance BIM integration strategies. While there are no direct personal benefits for participants in this study, their involvement will play a crucial role in advancing knowledge about the adoption of BIM in South African HEIs and other developing regions. The research findings will inform the development of strategy or framework tailored to the local context, potentially enhancing educational and industry practices regarding BIM implementation in HEIs.

Should you require more information or assistance regarding this research project, please contact the researcher on 21555575@dut4life.ac.za or (060) 718 6886 , my supervisor on AyodejiA@dut.ac.za or (074) 842 6297 or the Institutional Research Ethics Administrator on 031 373 2375. Complaints can be reported to the Acting Director: Research and Postgraduate Support on researchdirector@dut.ac.za .

Thank for your attention.



CONSENT

Full Title of the Study: The Adoption of BIM into AEC Programmes in South African Higher Education Institutions

Names of Researcher/s: Andile Ntokozo Sangweni

Statement of Agreement to Participate in the Research Study:

- I hereby confirm that I have been informed by the researcher **Andile Ntokozo Sangweni**, about the nature, conduct, benefits and risks of this study - Research Ethics Clearance Number: IREC 085/25,
- I have also received, read and understood the above written information (Participant Letter of Information) regarding the study.
- I am aware that the results of the study, including personal details regarding my sex, age, date of birth, initials and diagnosis will be anonymously processed into a study report.
- In view of the requirements of research, I agree that the data collected during this study can be processed in a computerised system by the researcher.
- I may, at any stage, without prejudice, withdraw my consent and participation in the study.
- I have had sufficient opportunity to ask questions and (of my own free will) declare myself prepared to participate in the study.
- I understand that significant new findings developed during the course of this research which may relate to my participation will be made available to me.

_____	_____	_____	_____
Full Name of Participant Thumbprint	Date	Time	Signature

I, Andile Ntokozo Sangweni herewith confirm that the above participant has been fully informed about the nature, conduct and risks of the above study

<u>Andile Ntokozo Sangweni</u>	<u>12/11/2024</u>	
Full Name of Researcher	Date	Signature

_____	_____	_____
Full Name of Witness (If applicable)	Date	Signature

_____	_____	_____
Full Name of Legal Guardian (If applicable)	Date	Signature