**University of Southern California
Office of Institutional Research

INFORMATION SHEET FOR NON-MEDICAL RESEARCH

Student Experience in the Research University (SERU) survey**

You are invited to participate in a research study conducted by the Office of Institutional Research and coordinated by Eduardo Molina at the University of Southern California*,* because you are a degree-seeking undergraduate. This study is funded by USC and several other major research universities that are also participating in the study. Your participation is voluntary. You must be aged 18 or older to participate. You should read the information below, and ask questions about anything you do not understand, before deciding whether to participate. Please take as much time as you need to read the consent form. You may also decide to discuss participation with your family or friends. You can print a copy of this form for your records.

**PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**The main purpose of this survey project is to gain a fuller understanding of the undergraduate experience at major research universities so that campus administrators can provide the best programs and services possible.  SERU gives students an opportunity to comment on the quality of the education they are receiving, student services, and other aspects of their undergraduate experience that help the University evaluate and improve undergraduate programs and services.

**Completion and return of the questionnaire will constitute consent to participate in this research project.

STUDY PROCEDURES**If you volunteer to participate in this study, you will be asked to complete a questionnaire about a variety of topics, including satisfaction with the educational experience, engagement in your studies, a current skills self-assessment, and development of scholarship.  The survey should take about 23 minutes to complete.

**PAYMENT/COMPENSATION FOR PARTICIPATION**You will not be paid for your participation. You will be eligible for entry into a series of drawings for various prizes including 6 Apple iPad minis and 2 pairs of Beats by Dre Headphones (Beats Solo HD model). You do not have to complete the entire questionnaire to be eligible for these drawings. Only one prize will be awarded per respondent.

**POTENTIAL RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS**You will be asked to honestly describe your experiences at USC, some of which may be negative. This may make you feel uncomfortable.

**POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS AND/OR TO SOCIETY**While there may not be any direct benefit to you from participating, the researchers hope the study results will help the administration make improvements in programs that directly affect undergraduate students.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**Any identifiable information obtained in connection with this study will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law.

The data will be coded with a list of random codes, which will provide the only access to your personal identity and will be accessible to one researcher (Eduardo Molina) only. Once the survey results are matched with institutional data, the personal identifiers will be removed.

These de-identified data will be stored indefinitely on a secure server for use in future studies.  If you do not want the data used in future research studies, you cannot participate in this study.

When the results of the research are published or discussed in conferences, no identifiable information will be used.

**PARTICIPATION AND WITHDRAWAL**Your participation is voluntary. Your refusal to participate will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You may withdraw your consent at any time and discontinue participation without penalty. You are not waiving any legal claims, rights or remedies because of your participation in this research study. The investigator may withdraw you from this research if circumstances arise which warrant doing so.

**ALTERNATIVES TO PARTICIPATION**Your alternative is to not participate. Your grades and student standing will not be affected whether or not you participate in this study.

**INVESTIGATOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION**If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please feel free to contact Eduardo Molina, (213) 821-5551, uscir@usc.edu, TGF 200.