



Project Title: University of Alberta Accessibility Study

Project Lead:

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Dear Participant,

Background and Purpose

My name is Cooper Csorba and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Alberta. I am seeking participants for a project I am conducting for the University of Alberta Students' Union (UASU). The purpose of this project is to learn about the state of accessibility across the campus built-environment (including buildings, indoor facilities and rooms, outdoor paths, transportation hubs, and other design features part of our environment). The project will identify the accessibility barriers and identify areas of improvement to work towards access for all user groups. You are receiving this letter as a person whose input would be valuable for this project.

Definitions

Accessibility: The ability or ease for any person, regardless of ability, to approach, enter and use buildings, facilities, and services.

Barrier: Obstacles that exclude people, hinder progress, prevent an individual from fully participating in or limit their access to certain programs, services or environments.

Built Environment: All structures and human-made surroundings.

Study Procedures

I will be seeking user feedback in two main areas, outlined below. You may choose to participate in one or more of these sessions:

1. One-on-one Interview: In this interview, a relaxed and casual environment will be created to allow for an open dialogue of your experience using the campus environment. Questions will focus on how you move around campus, where you spend your time on campus, what types of environments you enjoy, and what barriers you come across. I estimate this process will take 15-30 minutes.
2. Walkthrough of Campus: In this session, you, along with a member of the project team will walk through a route you're familiar with that is characteristic of your routine as a student. You will be asked to provide comments about these features along the route and provide feedback on your overall experience. Your comments may be audio recorded for a full record of your involvement in the walkthrough. We estimate that this process will take approximately 45-90 minutes.

Benefits

As a benefit of taking part in this project, you will get to share your thoughts and experiences about the current state of accessibility at the UofA. You may not personally benefit from this study, but key ideas from this project may provide the basis for improving accessibility across campus which could improve the future user experience. The intended outcome of the research is to inform the UofA on how we can design and retrofit buildings in ways that make our campus more accessible.

Risks

The risk involved in participating in this project is minimal, no greater than you would encounter in your everyday life. If we learn anything during the project that may affect your willingness to continue being involved, we will tell you right away.

Voluntary Participation

You are under no obligation to participate in this project and participation is completely voluntary. You may opt out of this project and may request to have any collected data

withdrawn and not included in the project. If you wish to opt-out of this project, you may do so by contacting me, Cooper Csorba, verbally or in writing by **April 28th**.

Confidentiality and Anonymity

The information collected in this project will primarily be used for quality assurance purposes and will form the basis of an external report for the UASU and University of Alberta Facilities & Operations which will consist of a report on how the campus environment can become more accessible. Participants will not be personally identified in any current or potential uses of these data unless the participant requests to be given credit for their contribution to this project. Data will be kept confidential to the UASU staff unless otherwise requested by the participant. Data will be kept secure on a password protected UASU server for a minimum of 5 years following the completion of the study and when appropriate destroyed in a way that ensures privacy and confidentiality.

If you agree to take part in this project, you can indicate your consent by completing the attached consent form or by email to Cooper Csorba (cooper.csorba@su.ualberta.ca).

Further Information and Additional Contacts

If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to contact me, Cooper Csorba, through email to cooper.csorba@su.ualberta.ca

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Cooper Csorba, Undergraduate Student, Planning Analyst
University of Alberta Students' Union