



**Consent Form for Participation in the Research Study Entitled  
The Effects of Coursecasting in International Freshman Students'  
Perceptions of Marginality and Isolation, Anxiety, and English Language  
Oral Proficiency and Comprehension**

**Funding Source:** None

**IRB Approval #:** wang12150801

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**Institutional Review Board**

Nova Southeastern University  
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**Description of the Study:**

The purpose of this study is to investigate whether podcasting is an effective tool that might mitigate feelings of marginalization and isolation, deficiencies in language comprehension and proficiency, and anxiety in students whose first language is not English. You are invited to participate because you are a student in this class. This class was selected because your professor has agreed to record his/her lectures and make them available to you in a podcast. Everyone in this class will have access to the podcasts, but only international students, or those for whom English is not their native language, can participate in the study.

Other than the time you choose to devote to listen to class podcasts, the study will not disrupt your everyday activities. If you choose to participate, you will be asked to complete four simple questionnaires during the first week of class, and five simple questionnaires during the last part of the course. These short surveys are intended to record any change in your feelings of marginalization, anxiety, and language proficiency. Overall, the combined, total time devoted to these surveys throughout the semester should not exceed two hours. Obviously, you will not be required to answer all of them at the same time. Your participation, as well as the results of the tests, will not affect your class grade in any way.

**Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Risks /Benefits to the Participant:**

This study presents no risks to you. All personal information and/or results from the questionnaires will be kept secure. In terms of benefits, you will be exposed to a new teaching method, which includes the use of a new technology (podcasting). Additional benefits may include improved English skills, improvement in academic performance, increased language comprehension and proficiency, and reduction of anxiety and/or feelings of isolation and marginalization. If you have any concerns about the risks or benefits of participating in this study, you can contact Alberto Fernandez, Dr. Timothy Ellis, or the IRB office at the numbers indicated above.

**Costs and Payments to the Participant:**

There are no costs to you or monetary compensation for participating in this study.

**Confidentiality and Privacy:**

The researchers will keep your information, and the results of the tests, confidential. Any records with your name on it will be placed in a locked cabinet, and shredded 36 months after the end of the study. All information obtained in this study is strictly confidential unless disclosure is required by law. The IRB and other government agencies may review research records.

**Use of Student/Academic Information:**

We will need to know your Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) test scores for the "Listening Comprehension" portion. In virtually all cases, this is information you submitted with your application to the Admission Office. If you don't remember the score, we will contact them for it, for which we will need your permission and approval.

**Participant's Right to Withdraw from the Study:**

You have the right to refuse to participate in this study or withdraw from it at any time. In either case, there is no penalty to you. Furthermore, your grade in the course will not be affected in any way by your participation, refusal to participate in this study or withdrawal from it. If you choose to leave, you may ask that any of your data which we collected be destroyed unless this is not allowed by state or federal law.

**Other Considerations:**

If the researcher learns information that might change your mind about being involved, you will be informed about it as soon as it is possible.

**Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Voluntary Consent by Participant:**

I have read the preceding consent form, or it has been read to me, and I fully understand the contents of this document and voluntarily consent to participate in the research study entitled “The Effects of Coursecasting in International Students’ Language Comprehension, Academic Performance and Overall Course Experience”. All of my questions concerning the research have been answered. I hereby agree to participate in this research study. I also allow the researcher to contact the Admissions office at my university to request my TOEFL scores, if I do not remember them. If I have any questions in the future about this study they will be answered by Alberto Fernandez or Dr. Timothy Ellis. A copy of this form has been given to me. This consent ends at the conclusion of this study.

**Participant's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Participant's E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_