

# Participant Information Leaflet



**Study title: Applying concepts of wellbeing into design stages to meet WELL Certification standards on office spaces in Ireland**

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You are being invited to take part in a research study to be carried out at Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT).

Before you decide whether or not you wish to take part, you should read the information provided below carefully and, if you wish, discuss it with your partners. Take time to ask questions – don't feel rushed and don't feel under pressure to make a quick decision.

You should clearly understand the risks and benefits of taking part in this study so that you can make a decision that is right for you. This process is known as 'Informed Consent'.

You do not have to take part in this study.

You can change your mind about taking part in the study any time you like. Even if the study has started, you can still opt out. You don't have to give us a reason. If you do opt out, your data will not be used in the study.

## **Why is this study being done?**

This research study is taking place to consider what measures does design professionals in Ireland take, if any, to design office spaces with wellbeing best practices to achieve WELL Certification Standards. The study examines what is the WELL Certification, if this certification is applicable in Ireland, what are some approaches Irish design professionals take into consideration and the existing promotion for designing for the wellbeing of office occupants in the country. The research aim is to rise an awareness to design professionals to design for the wellbeing of office occupants in the Irish construction industry.

This study is being carried out by the researcher in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the BSc (Hons) in Architectural Technology to the Department of the Built Environment at Dundalk Institute of Technology for its final year dissertation. This dissertation will be published to the Department of the Built Environment at Dundalk Institute of Technology and will be saved in the library of the same higher education institute.

### **Who is organising and funding this study?**

This study is being conducted by Patricio Chico, for its final year dissertation in the B.Sc. (Hons) in Architectural Technology programme at Dundalk Institute of Technology.

### **Why am I being asked to take part?**

Design professionals have been asked to participate in this study to get a broad spectrum of views of professionals with experience in design projects on what is their approach, if at all, to design for the wellbeing of office occupants and if they consider appropriate to established WELL Certification Standards or/and best practices standards in Ireland.

### **How will the study be carried out?**

The study will happen with semi-structured interviews to design professionals in a face to face meeting, or online meeting if preferable. On the other hand, a questionnaire will be shared to the CIAT for members to answer these questions. This will happen between the dates 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

In order of the reduced timeframe of this study, 2 to 3 design professionals are going to be interviewed. The questionnaire is planned to be circulated through the CIAT and RIAI newsletter, which 5 designers are expected to respond. Their answers will be analysed and published on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March among the finished dissertation to the Department of the Built Environment at Dundalk Institute of Technology and saved in the library of the same higher education institute.

### **What will happen to me if I agree to take part?**

Anyone who agrees to take part in the study will only have to reply with an email to the researcher. Then a meeting date will be agreed for the interviews. People that are willing to participate in the questionnaires shall complete the Microsoft Forms which includes a demographic section within. There is no need to fill a questionnaire for the interviews.

Any person who is willing to participate either on the interviews or questionnaires shall notice the following information.

The interviews are considered to take minimum 30 minutes. The responsible to conduct the interviews is Patricio Chico. The meetings face to face will take place in the preferred location of the interviewer, or if preferable, the meetings can be online in Microsoft Teams.

The questionnaire will take 10 to 15 minutes to complete. It contains multiple options for an ease response and have an “other” option if the participant is willing to further explain their answer for depth and clarity.

### **What other treatments are available to me?**

Not applicable

**What are the benefits?**

The information obtained in the study will feed into the knowledge of best practices for designing of wellbeing for design professionals and will help for further researchers to develop a more schematic approach to designing for the wellbeing of office occupants in Ireland.

On completion of the study, the researcher will forward a copy of the literature review and findings to participants throughout this research.

The benefits to the participants are expected to be raise a directly awareness of the designing for the wellbeing of office occupants and might expand their knowledge into this new in develop subject.

**What are the risks?**

No anticipated risks to participants are identified.

**What if something goes wrong when I'm taking part in this study?**

There are no anticipated risks to participants.

**Will it cost me anything to take part?**

There is no cost for the participants getting involved in this research project.

**Is the study confidential?**

The study is confidential. Participant names will not be sought. Only aggregate information from the study will be published. If anyone chooses to opt out, their wishes will be respected. The information from the interviews and questionnaires will be held for 12 months after the publication date. Any voice recordings or notes taken will also be stored in a secure location and deleted within 12 months of the publication.

**Where can I get further information?**

If you have any further questions about the study or if you want to opt out of the study, you can rest assured it won't affect the quality of treatment you get in the future.

If you need any further information now or at any time in the future, please contact:

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