



## INFORMATION SHEET FOR RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

### 1. Invitation to participate in research

We invite you to participate in *Multilingual and multimodal approaches in EMI for enhancing disciplinary literacies* (MultiAp-EMI). The purpose of this study is to investigate how university teachers who teach their subjects in English (in what is called English-Medium Instruction, or EMI) use different languages and communication modes to help students understand complex ideas. These modes can include spoken and written language, as well as visuals, gestures, and other signs or symbols used in teaching. The study explores how such communication happens in different academic subjects and examines how students perceive their understanding of the subject as it develops in the classroom during the lesson. The study aims to develop a clearer understanding of how teaching and learning work in multilingual and multimodal university classrooms where English is used as the main language of instruction. The study also aims to develop a conceptual/theoretical framework of disciplinary literacies that reflects the realities of higher education classrooms.

This information sheet describes the study and what participation in it means for you. The Privacy Notice provides information on the processing of your personal data.

You are invited to the study because you are a student studying a subject taught through English at your university, and your experiences and reflections can provide valuable insights into how students understand and learn subject content in English-Medium courses.

The study will involve approximately twelve (12) university lecturers and their students who participate in English-Medium Instruction (EMI) courses in higher education. Around fifty (50) students will also take part in interviews.

Data will be collected through classroom audio and video recordings, an online survey for students, and follow-up stimulated recall interviews with selected students. The online survey will ask participating students to rate their level of content understanding in different parts (i.e., episodes) of the lesson. Participants for the follow-up interviews will be purposively selected to ensure gender balance and variation in self-reported understanding for the selected lesson episode.

You will not be contacted again after data collection is completed, and no additional or follow-up studies involving the same participants are planned.

### 2. Voluntary participation

Participation in this study is voluntary. You can refuse to participate in the study, withdraw from the study or your consent at any time, without stating a reason. This will have no negative consequences for you. You will not be placed in any unequal or disadvantaged position within your course or university, irrespective of your decision regarding participation in the study.

If you decide to stop participating in the study or withdraw your consent, any personal data, samples or other information collected to that point may still be used in the research if needed to ensure reliable results.

### **3. Progress of the study**

This study will be carried out at universities in Finland and Türkiye and will focus on classes where subjects are taught in English. The research will take place during the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 academic years. It will include a total of approximately 12 courses from Natural and Social Sciences. Data will be collected through classroom video and audio recordings, short self-assessment survey for students, and follow-up interviews with selected students. Your lesson will be recorded once using video and audio equipment, just as it normally happens, during normal class sessions. The course instructors will be asked to work with the researcher before the target lesson to divide the lesson into meaningful episodes based on the different concepts introduced and tasks conducted. The instructors will not be required to take any actions outside of their normal teaching activities. The recordings will help the researcher understand teachers' use of language, visuals, materials, and other forms of communication to explain subject content. The focus of the research is on understanding teaching and learning practices, meaning that teachers or students will not be evaluated. After the recorded lesson, participating students will be asked to rate their overall understanding of the content covered in different episodes of the lesson on a 10-point scale. This is expected to take around 5 minutes.

Within approximately three days after the recorded lesson, a small number of students will be invited by e-mail to participate in an individual follow-up session. During this session, they will watch a short segment of the recorded lesson (typically lasting 5–15 minutes), rate their moment-by-moment understanding using the keyboard while viewing, and then discuss the factors that supported or hindered their understanding at specific moments. This session will last approximately 45–60 minutes.

### **4. Possible benefits from the study**

Participation in this study will not bring any direct personal benefits to you. However, by taking part, you will contribute to research that aims to improve teaching and learning in university courses taught through English. The study will help researchers and teachers better understand how different languages, other communication resources, and material resources support students' understanding of subject content. In the longer term, the results of this study may help teachers develop and use a more diverse range of strategies and resources in English-medium courses to support students from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. The findings will also contribute to international research on language, communication, and higher education.

### **5. Possible risks, harm, and inconvenience caused by the study as well as preparing for these**

Possible risks or inconvenience are minimal. The study will be designed to minimize any burden on both teachers and students. The classroom recordings and the interviews will take place at your university. Information collected from you will only be used for research purposes. We will not be using your real name or the name of your university in research outputs, and in this way safeguarding against any information being linked to you as an individual. All audiovisual data will be stored on secure, access-controlled servers; participation is fully voluntary and unrelated to coursework or evaluation; and participants may withdraw at any time. Any sensitive opinions shared can be removed from the recording. Overall, the likelihood of harm is very low, and no lasting adverse effects are anticipated.

### **6. Insurance coverage for research participants**

The University of Jyväskylä has insurance for its activities and research participants. The participants are covered for accidents, damages and injuries inflicted due to an external cause. The accident insurance is valid during measurements, measurement visits and trips directly related to them.

## 7. Compensation for participation and reimbursement of study-related costs

Participants receive no payment or compensation for possible travel costs for this study.

## 8. Funding of the study

This research is funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowship (Grant Agreement No. 101205164) under the Horizon Europe Programme, awarded by the European Commission. The funder has no influence over the research design, conduct, or analysis, and the researchers remain fully independent in all aspects of the study. There are no bindings to the funder that could affect the objectivity or outcomes of the research.

## 9. Conflicts of Interests

The study and the researchers have no conflicts of interest that could affect the study's independence.

## 10. Informing about research results and research outcomes

The study will yield scientific publications, conference and seminar presentations, teaching and teacher training materials, scientific and professional outlets, and published research data. Research participants cannot be identified from publications or published results. The participating universities will be informed of the project's publications. Participants can obtain information about the outcomes of the study by contacting the researchers.

## 11. The use of research data after the study is finished

After the study is finished, the research data will be anonymised, which means that any information enabling personal identification is deleted. The anonymised research data will be stored in JYU's JYX service, from where the data is available by a specific request for research and/or teaching purposes.

## 12. Contact person for further information

### Principal Investigator (PI):

Name: Talip Gulle

Phone number: +358504765159

Email: [talip.tg.gulle@jyu.fi](mailto:talip.tg.gulle@jyu.fi)

Work address: Centre for Applied Language Studies, University of Jyväskylä, PO Box 35, FI-40014, Mattilanniemi 2, 40100 Jyväskylä.

### Supervisor:

Name: Tarja Nikula-Jäntti

Phone number: +358405565877

Email: [tarja.nikula@jyu.fi](mailto:tarja.nikula@jyu.fi)

Work address: Centre for Applied Language Studies, University of Jyväskylä, PO Box 35, FI-40014, Mattilanniemi 2, 40100 Jyväskylä.