

COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND VIRTUAL REALITY WAIVER OF LIABILITY AGREEMENT

Please read this document carefully. You will not be able to take part in the College of Staten Island VR (Virtual Reality) experiences without signing this waiver.

The College of Staten Island's Virtual Reality (VR) Lab is located in 1C213. The room is under 24 hour video surveillance. When this room is in use, an Office of Information Technology Services (OITS) personnel will be in the room at all times. Portable VR headsets can also be signed out from the VR Lab for a limited time after a user completes a Virtual Reality Loan Agreement Form.

In order to enter virtual reality, you must wear a headset which will totally block the view of your real location. Depending on the headset, you might not be able to hear the outside world. When in 1C213, in the event of an emergency (such as a fire alarm), OITS personnel will instruct you to immediately remove the VR headset. When you are using a portable VR headset outside of 1C213 (on or off campus) you are solely responsible for your surroundings, including your safety and the safety of others.

While in your possession, you are fully responsible for any equipment that is borrowed. You will be responsible for covering the cost of repairs of any damage and/or loss of any borrowed equipment while it is in your possession. You should see that the devices and their accessories are working upon receipt of equipment. You must return all borrowed items within the time allotted on the loan agreement. You shall not perform any illegal activities with any of the borrowed equipment.

Some VR applications (software programs) allow for interaction including audio and gestures. Inappropriate behaviour and verbal comments can be encountered in this environment, which cannot be controlled. Some users of VR can be easily shocked or surprised, which can result in people shouting expletives. We ask that all participants respect others while in the VR Lab. Anyone exhibiting inappropriate behaviour will be asked to leave the lab.

Information Technology staff will always be present to assist you while in the VR Lab. Due to assistance needed with securing the headset and controllers on the user, as well as making sure that the user is correctly positioned in the room for optimal VR experience, the OITS technician might need to come in physical contact with the user.

Virtual reality experiences can be extremely realistic, creating unprecedented levels of emotions. For example, you can be scared, made to feel unsafe, unsure of your footings, or bump into things. Other environments can help you relax and unwind. We recommend you start with more gentle experiences until you have become more familiar with the new world. VR applications have information listed that will help you choose the experiences that best suit you.

Please read this information before choosing any experience.

HEALTH AND SAFETY WARNINGS

Pre-Existing Medical Conditions

- Consult with your physician before using the headset if you are pregnant, elderly, have pre-existing binocular vision abnormalities or psychiatric disorders, or suffer from a heart condition or other serious medical condition.
- Severe dizziness, seizures, eye or muscle twitching, or blackouts triggered by light flashes or patterns may occur while watching TV, playing video games or experiencing virtual reality. Anyone who experiences any of these symptoms should discontinue use of the headset and see a doctor. If you previously have had a seizure, loss of awareness, or other symptom linked to an epileptic condition, you should see a doctor before using the headset.
- Interference with Medical Devices. The headset and controller(s) may contain magnets or components that emit radio waves, which could affect the operation of nearby electronics, including cardiac pacemakers, hearing aids and defibrillators. If you have a pacemaker or other implanted medical device, do not use the headset and controller without first consulting your doctor or the manufacturer of your medical device. Stop using the headset and/or controller(s) if you observe a persistent interference with your medical device.

Discomfort

Immediately discontinue using the headset if any of the following symptoms are experienced:

- Seizures
- Loss of awareness
- Eye strain
- Eye or muscle twitching
- Involuntary movements
- Altered, blurred, or double vision or other visual abnormalities
- Dizziness; Disorientation; Impaired balance;
- Impaired hand-eye coordination
- Excessive sweating
- Increased salivation
- Nausea; Light-headedness;
- Drowsiness; Fatigue
- Any symptoms similar to motion sickness
- Discomfort or pain in the head or eyes;

Repeated use may exaggerate the above effects and may become apparent hours after use. This could lead to increased risk of injury when engaging in normal activities in the real world after leaving the VR Lab, or after using a portable VR headset.

We recommend that you do not enter virtual reality when tired or ill, under the influence of alcohol or drugs, hung-over, in pain, or feel stressed or anxious in any way, as these factors can increase your risk of potential issues. If you feel any discomfort whatsoever when using the VR equipment, please immediately refrain from using the equipment.

If at any time you have any health and safety questions regarding your experiences at the VR Lab, please consult with an OITS technician. However, although the VR Lab seeks to create a safe environment, OITS personnel will not know a participant's health or abilities.

Protection against Virus

In order to maintain a safe and hygienic environment from any kind of virus, please wash hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before using the VR equipment. Also, please use the provided disposable facemasks. OITS cleans and disinfects the VR equipment after every use. OITS and the College of Staten Island will not be responsible for any illness following the use of the equipment.

AUTHORIZATION OF USE

Due to the unpredictable nature of the human response to virtual reality and the risks associated with the use of VR, we require all participants to sign this waiver releasing the College of Staten Island and its employees from any liability regarding the use of any College of Staten Island virtual reality equipment.

**BY USING ONE OF THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND VIRTUAL REALITY HEADSETS,
YOU ARE INDICATING YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF
THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT.**

- I wish to use one of the College of Staten Island VR headsets.
 - I recognize and understand that the use of a VR headset involves certain risks
 - I am using the VR equipment voluntarily
 - I assume all of the physical, psychological, and financial risks associated with use of VR equipment
- By signing, I acknowledge that I have read and understood all of the terms of this release form and that I am voluntarily giving up substantial legal rights, including the right to sue the College of Staten Island or its employees.
- I understand that I must sign this Waiver of Liability Agreement in person before using the equipment provided at/by the College of Staten Island’s Virtual Reality Lab.

I have reviewed the Health and Safety Warnings and agree to the Terms and Conditions stipulated in this agreement.

Name (Please Print) _____ **Contact No.** _____

Email Address _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____