

University of Denver / Vail Resorts Study FAQs

1. Will I be paid for participating in the study?
Participation in the study is completely voluntary. You will not be compensated for participating, but you may be issued equipment to be used in the study. The equipment will be yours upon completion of the program.
2. Can I choose which study group I will be in?
If you have a preferred group to be assigned to, every effort will be made to honor the request.
3. If I am selected to use the KneeBinding, will VR issue me a set of skis to mount them on?
No, we will provide you the bindings at no cost and will enable you to have them mounted at a VRR location. You are expected to provide skis for mounting the binding.
4. What if I want to use other skis during the season that don't have KneeBinding?
We encourage you to utilize the equipment provided in the study as much as you can while working. You are not required to utilize the equipment. You are permitted to use other skis with other bindings during the season. It is important to remember to track the usage accurately through the tracking pass provided.
5. How many days am I supposed to ski with the issued equipment (binding or compression)?
The study will run for two seasons. There is no threshold limit for either the compression garment or the binding. Participation in the study means that you agree to use the issued equipment at least some of the days you ski (at work or on your own), but you will always have the right to choose which equipment you use on any given day.
6. What if I get hurt at work while using either the compression or the binding?
The products you may be given for the purposes of this study are commercially available on the market today for Alpine Skiing. If you are injured while on the job, normal worker's compensation benefits will apply.
7. Can I use the compression garment and/or the binding on my day off?
Yes. It is important to keep the tracking pass with you on those days too for accurate research data.
8. What if I get hurt on a day off while using either the compression or the binding?
The products chosen for this study by the University of Denver are commercially sold to consumers today. Injuries incurred on your own time should be submitted through your personal medical insurance. It is important for the research project to report the injury for data accuracy.

9. Will I be paid for my time to take the periodic surveys if I do them from home?
No. Each survey should only take 3-5 minutes to complete.
10. Participation is voluntary, but can I take the periodic surveys at work while clocked in?
Yes.
11. What personal information will be shared with other parties?
No personal data from any participant will be shared by Vail Resorts with the researchers conducting the study or any other study participants.
12. Are the periodic surveys anonymous?
Yes.
13. Will Vail Resorts have access to my survey answers?
No. Vail Resorts will have access only to aggregate data from all participants.
14. If I am in the group that receives BOTH the compression AND the binding, can I use one without the other?
It is important to gather accurate data for the study. If you are in the group that receives both types of equipment, it is important that you only log your time when using both. If you choose to use only one of the two, you can – but please make sure that the data is being logged only when both are in use.
15. Will instructors who are participating in the study receive extra or better assignments when they are using the equipment?
Participation in the study is voluntary and is independent of lesson assignments. The established process for assigning lessons will be used for all instructors, regardless of their participation or non-participation in the study.
16. Am I allowed to keep the issued equipment at the end of the study?
Yes.
17. Can I get one or more extra compression garments to keep me from having to wear the same piece multiple days during a week?
Because of the high level of participation in the study across the company, we are only able to issue one compression garment for each participant.
18. Where can I find more information / technical specs for the binding and the compression garment?
*KneeBinding: www.kneebinding.com
Opedix: www.opedix.com*

19. Do the bindings accept a traditional alpine boot? Do they accept an AT boot?
Knee bindings are designed for a traditional alpine boot. An AT boot with an alpine sole can be used, but not an AT boot with a tech sole. Refer to the KneeBinding website (www.kneebinding.com) for specific information.
20. Can I mount the binding on any type of ski?
Please refer to www.kneebinding.com for technical specifications regarding type of skis that can accept the KneeBinding mount.
21. I'm planning to get the bindings mounted on some new skis. Once the study is complete, if I want to use a different binding, will I be able to mount a different binding on the ski? Will VR pay for the remount?
Most skis will allow a second mount. If you choose to replace the KneeBinding upon completion of the study, the cost will be your responsibility.
22. Where can I get the binding mounted?
Bindings can be mounted at select VRR locations at no cost to the employee. If you choose to have them mounted at a non-VRR location, you will be responsible for the cost.
23. Can snowboarders participate and use the compression garment?
No. The study is limited to the use of the binding and compression garment in a skiing population. Snowboarders are not eligible for participation.
24. Will the ski school management dictate when or how I use my equipment?
No.
25. Am I allowed to move the bindings to a different ski than they were originally mounted on?
Yes. The study is focused on the binding, so you are free to re-mount to a different ski. You may not, however, receive a second set of bindings to mount to other skis. It is important to inform the researchers if you change skis.
26. Why should I participate in the study?
As a participant, you will be forging a new path to improving skier safety for the sport. The data gathered from this and other studies will help researchers improve ski and binding design as well as inform on the benefits that may be gained from wellness related programs.
27. If the study shows a positive impact, will Vail Resorts begin requiring instructors to use this equipment while working?
This research is intended to enable engineers to improve the design of equipment and wellness programs used in our sport and is not an assessment or endorsement of the equipment manufacturers taking part in the study.
28. What if I break a binding or lose my compression piece?
If either of these occurs, please inform Health and Safety for instructions.

29. If I decide not to participate but change my mind later in the season, can I still get in?
You may join the study at a later date, provided open slots are available.
30. How will you know if I am wearing the garment or using the binding on any given day? (How will you collect the data to make sure it's accurate?)
Each participant will be issued a card corresponding to the group to which he/she is assigned. These cards will have RF chips that will register with the Epic Mix gantries. Participants will be asked to carry the card whenever they use the study equipment.
31. If you are using an RF in conjunction with the Epic Mix gantries, who will have access to that data? Will it be anonymous? Can it be used to track me around the mountain?
You are NOT be tracked around the mountain. The RF tags are anonymous and do not relate back to the participant. The RF tag will only identify that the user is in a particular study group.
32. I've had a prior knee injury with/without surgery. Does this affect my participation?
No. Instructors who have existing knee pain, a history of knee problems, or past knee surgery are all eligible to participate.
33. If I am injured while using the issued equipment, will there be any further actions beyond the resort's established incident review process?
There will be questions from the researchers regarding any injury sustained during the study.