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# CS4700/CS4705 Student Ethics Application Form

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| Section A | | |
| A1 | Title Of Research: | Interactive Mapping in Public Environmental Monitoring |
| A2 | Proposed Study Dates: Start Date | 20th June 2021 |
| A3 | Proposed Study Dates: Finish Date | 30th September 2021 |
| A4 | *Project Supervisor details:* |  |
| A4a | Project Supervisor: Title and Name | Dr Helen Wang |
| A4b | Project Supervisor: Email Address | h.wang25@aston.ac.uk |
| A4c | Project Supervisor: Telephone | 0121 204 3000 |
| A5 | College | Engineering & Physical Sciences, Computer Science |
| A6 | *Student details:* |  |
| A6a | Student: Name | Abbas Gure #160197415 |
| A6b | Student: Email Address | 160197415@aston.ac.uk |

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| Section B  *Transfer your responses from the CS4700-CS4705 Ethics Self-Declaration Form to here.* | | |
| B1 | Does the project involve participants selected because of their links with the NHS/clinical practice or because of their professional roles within the NHS/clinical practice, or does the research take place within the NHS/clinical practice, or involve the use of video footage or other materials concerning patients involved in any kind of clinical practice? | No |
| B2 | Does the project involve any i) clinical procedures or ii) physical intervention or iii) penetration of the participant's body or iv) prescription of compounds additional to normal diet or other dietary manipulation/supplementation or v) collection of bodily secretions or vi) involve human tissue which comes within the Human Tissue Act? (e.g., surgical operations; taking body samples including blood and DNA; exposure to ionizing or other radiation; exposure to sound light or radio waves; psychophysiological procedures such as fMRI, MEG, TMS, EEG, ECG, exercise and stress procedures; administration of any chemical substances)? | No |
| B3 | Having reflected upon the ethical implications of the project and/or its potential findings, do you believe that the research could be a matter of public controversy or have a negative impact on the reputation/standing of Aston University? | No |
| B4 | Does the project involve interaction with or the observation of human beings (either directly or remotely e.g., via CCTV or internet interactions) , including interactions, observations, surveys, questionnaires, interviews, blogs, etc ? | Yes |

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| Section C | | |
| C1 | Will individual or group interviews/questionnaires discuss any topics or issues that might be sensitive, embarrassing or upsetting, or is it possible that criminal or other disclosures requiring action could take place during the study (e.g., during interviews/group discussions, or use of screening tests for drugs) | No |
| C2 | *Does the project involve the* ***deliberate*** *selection of participants from vulnerable groups:* |  |
| C2a | Children (i.e., people under the age of 18)? | No |
| C2b | People with learning difficulties? | No |
| C2c | People with mental disabilities | No |
| C2d | Prisoners/detained persons | No |
| C2e | Aston students or staff | Yes |
| C2f | People with physical disabilities | No |
| C2g | People over 65 years of age | No |
| C2h | Pregnant women | No |
| C2i | Other vulnerable group | No |
|  | *If Yes to C2i, please specify:* |  |
|  | *Explain if you are including any other groups that could be considered vulnerable.* |  |
| C3 | Does the research involve the deliberate deception of the participant?  *This would only normally be the case if advising participants about an element of a study upfront would impact/alter their behaviour. If this is the case, then a full debrief and consenting process would need to take place after the data collection.* | No |
| C4a | Does the research involve the observation and/or recording (e.g., video, audio, CCTV, etc) of people?  *This would be the case if you are recording participants’ interaction with technology or the discussion in an interview of focus group, for example .* | No |
|  | *If you have answered "Yes/Not Sure" to answer C4a, Please answer Question C4b, otherwise please go to Question C5* |  |
| C4b | Will any people being observed and/or recorded not be informed that the observation and/or recording is taking place?  *This would only normally be the case if advising participants about an element of a study upfront would impact/alter their behaviour or if it is not possible to advise them upfront. If this is the case, then a full debrief and consenting process would need to take place after the data collection.* | No |
| C5 | Does the research involve the collection of confidential data and/or is there a risk that any participant could be identified from the data collected?  *Ideally, try to avoid collecting any identifiable data unless it is absolutely necessary: you should be able to justify the collection of each and every data item. Consider whether an individual answer/data item could identify an individual or whether a collection of responses across several questions could also be used to identify an individual.* | No |

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| Section D | | |
| D1 | Research Protocol: provide a summary of the purpose, design and methodology of the planned research, including a brief explanation of the theoretical framework that informs it. A clear statement should be included of what will happen to participants (including, where appropriate, frequency, duration and in what order). |  |
|  | The purpose of this research is to receive feedback on creating a website that is aesthetically relevant to environmental theme, that is equally informative. Since individuals accessing this website will be predominantly regular individuals, I wanted to garner some feedback from them so the website is tailored to provide informative feedback that they would deem adequate relative to their environment. The feedback received will also be in the form of a questionnaire for the creation of the website as well as a blog where they can add any form of feedback relative to their environment, etc if rubbish is stated to be in the vicinity, the questionnaire as well as the websites features will be very succinct and informative to prevent excess time on it while also relaying the required information adequately. |  |
| *Link to Supporting Papers in PDF format:* | | |
| D1 - Upload | *Attach any supporting documents that you feel would be useful in reviewing your ethical application.* | |
| D2 | Location of research: (enter details of all sites where research will take place and specify the elements of research to be undertaken at each centre) |  |
|  | All participants will be residing in the same geographical region of United Kingdom, that being Birmingham, they will most likely be under social distancing rules hence most participants will be individuals closely associated with me be that immediate family or friends. |  |
|  | *Procedures:* |  |
| D3a | Substances to be administered (a substance is anything other than normal food - chemical constituents of food stuffs, ethanol and variation of the diet should be included here) and method of delivery should be specified: | N/A |
|  | *This should be N/A (as pre-entered) for most MSc CS4700/CS4705 projects but if this is not the case, explain in detail what is being done here.* |  |
| D3b | If drugs are to be used, do any require clinical trials certificate or clinical trials exemption certificate? | N/A |
| *If Yes, please provide a copy of the certificate (.PDF format):* | | |
| D3b - Upload | *This is N/A for MSc CS4700/CS4705 studies as we will not approve studies in CS that require drugs to be administered.* | |
| D3c | Psychological assessment: |  |
|  | There will not be a psychological assessment in this questionnaire as all participants will have sound mental capacity to provide consent and give feedback. |  |
| D3d | Questionnaires: |  |
|  | Provide a copy of your proposed questionnaire(s) if applicable. We cannot approve a study without seeing what you will be asking a participant. Similarly, if you are proposing to run interviews, focus groups, or testing in which users will be asked to rate system, we will need to see copies of all such questions.  Example Q – From the following images which one feels the closest to what you expect to be an environmentally informative website.  Example Q- Here are a series of colour palettes for designing a website, which ones would you deem best for a website that’s environmentally oriented, that makes it easy to read and obtain information from. (This will provide range of colour palettes while another question will be showing the contrast between the text and background).  Another Example Q – What features would you expect to see in an environmental website. (This question is open ended to receive some feedback from participants and what they would expect to find when visiting a environmental website that caters to their local environment). |  |
| D3e | D3e - Observation and/or Recording of People: |  |
|  | Only the answers for the questions will be recorded, but no observation of individuals or discussions will be jotted down. |  |
| D3f | Identify any procedures designed to be challenging physically or psychologically (including any physical exercise): |  |
|  | The most challenging procedure will consist of individual having to pick between a select set of images to determine which one appears the closest to an environmentally green theme. |  |
| D3g | Identify any new equipment to be tested: |  |
|  | *If you are using standard, off the shelf hardware, you can explain that here. Similarly, if you are testing new software, explain that here.* |  |
| D3h | If this work involves human tissue does it come within the Human Tissue Act (HTA)? (If yes please consult with the Designated Individual for the HTA, currently c.j.bailey (c.j.bailey@aston.ac.uk)). | N/A |
|  | *This is N/A as we will not approve any such studies within CS.* |  |
|  | *Participants: (complete the following sections where appropriate)* |  |
| D4a | Number of Participants: 25 |  |
|  | *Identify and justify the number of participants you will be recruiting to your study.* |  |
| D4b | Over what time span will participants be used? |  |
|  | The participants will be used for 5-7 minutes, the questionnaire will never reach more than 10 minutes due to its simplicity. |  |
| D4c | Criteria for selection of participants: |  |
|  | Participants will be above age of consent and have sound understanding of technology, enough to type while also being capable of fluently reading and writing English. |  |
| D4d | Source of participants: |  |
|  | Due to Covid-19, majority of participants will be individuals from a family group/friend circle, anyone outside is individuals who are recommended by family/friend circle. |  |
| D4e | Will payments be made to the participants? | No |
|  | *If Yes, how much will each be paid?* |  |
|  | *Normally MSc level projects don’t make any payments to participants, but if you have resources to do so, it would be typical that payment is made in the form of gift certificates (e.g., Amazon vouchers). The norm is £10/hr.* |  |
| D4f | Are the participants patients ? | No |
|  | *If Yes state diagnosis and clinic/responsible practitioner:* |  |
|  | *This should be N/A since we are not approving studies which recruit patients via the NHS. That said, if you are recruiting people with a given condition via other means, you might need to consider this. Any such study would likely require to be considered an University Research Ethics Committee level.* |  |
| D4g | Does the study have any specific exclusion criteria for participants ? | Yes |
|  | *D4g - If Yes, on what grounds?* |  |
|  | Yes, participants must be over the age of consent as well as have sound reading and writing in the English language. Due to the nature of the survey being a visual one where they will have to type out their responses, they will also be required to have some degree of interactive competency with current technology. |  |
|  | *If Not Sure, explain why not:* |  |
|  | *This should be used to capture where inclusion/exclusion criteria are not clear.* |  |
| D4h | Is the activity of the participant to be restricted in any way either before or after the procedure? (e.g., diet, driving) | No |
|  | *If Yes, Please specify duration and type(s) of restriction:* |  |
|  | *This is unlikely to be relevant to most MSc CS4700/CS4705 projects in which case answer N/A but if you do need participants to take specific actions before or after their study, list and rationalise them here.* |  |
| *Please attach a .PDF file containing consent form(s) and information provided to participants and to parents/guardians etc detailing how procedures and hazards are explained:* | | |
| D4i - Upload | *When submitting your application, please ensure you include all the PIS, consent, recruitment, and protocol documents.* | |
| D4j | Will all participants in the research be in a position to give informed consent ? | Yes |
|  | *If No: please explain why it is not possible to gain the participant's consent and the justification for undertaking the research without it:* |  |
|  | Yes, participants recruited will all have the capacity of understanding the cause behind the questionnaire, they will all be individuals who are above the responsible age of 18 to 65 without any learning difficulties or mental health conditions that can affect their right to give consent for themselves. They will also have sound reading and understanding of the English language otherwise they will not be allowed to participate. |  |
| D4k | What measures have been made for participants who might be vulnerable or might not adequately understand verbal explanations or written information given in English or have special communication needs (e.g., translation, use of interpreters, use of chaperones, presence of guardians, researchers from same gender as participants etc)? |  |
|  | Due to covid-19 conditions face to face and not having access other resources such as translators, we will have to make an exclusion criterion that individuals must be able to read, write and speak English fluently since this allows them to have complete understanding regarding the questions asked without the need for assistance. |  |
| D4l | What measures have been made to ensure that any participants who are believed to be under some form of duress (e.g., staff, students, prisoners, members of the armed forces, employees of companies sponsoring research) are not coerced into participating |  |
|  | The questionnaire is not compulsory, and they are allowed to refuse participation, this will be reinforced to the participants before and during the questionnaire. Giving them option to opt out of the questionnaire if they are no longer comfortable continuing it. Reminding them that this is a voluntary study. |  |
| D4m | What arrangements have been made to provide indemnity and/or compensation in the event of a claim by, or on behalf of, participants for negligent and/or for non-negligent harm? Please note that you should not undertake to provide any form of indemnity or insurance cover without first referring the matter to the Deputy Director of Finance for her/his consideration. |  |
|  | Standard Aston Indemnity Applies |  |
| D4n | Will participants be informed that they may withdraw from the study at any time ? | Yes |
|  | *Risks and Ethical issues:* |  |
| D5a | What do you consider to be the main ethical issues which may arise from the proposed research and give full details of any hazards, pain, discomfort, distress, inconvenience or use of deception which could affect the health, safety or well-being of any participant, or any other person who might be affected by the research. |  |
|  | Risks present are none other than those posed by the use of technology in daily life. |  |
| D5b | What levels of risk are associated with these hazards? |  |
|  | None other than those posed by the use of technology in daily life. Potential of misunderstanding the questions presented in the questionnaire. |  |
| D5c | How do you propose to control the risks associated with these hazards? |  |
|  | Be aware of above-mentioned risks stated above and if there is misunderstanding, prevent this by making sure individuals are well aware of the request behind each question, reinforcing to them what it is asking of them and making sure they understand that. |  |
| D5d | What criteria have you used to determine whether the risks are acceptable? |  |
|  | N/A |  |
| D5e | Is there any precedent for this research ? If so, please give details with references if possible. |  |
|  | There is no precedent that I have come across for this research, the only material I am going by consists of the natural SDLC development life cycle of any software created. |  |
| D5f | Has this project been considered/is it being considered by any other Ethical Committee? If so, please give details and decision made. (If the project involves participants selected because of their links with the NHS, or because of their professional roles within the NHS, or the research take place within the NHS it must be submitted to the appropriate NHS Local Research Ethics Committee (LREC) or Multicentre REC (MREC)) |  |
|  | No  *This is unlikely for MSc CS4700/CS4705 unless you are working on a project with a supervisor where the project already has ethical approval from another organisation in which case change the response to Yes and upload the evidence of approval.* |  |
| *Please attach one PDF file containing copies of any approval letter(s) from other Ethics Committees* | | |
| D5f - Upload |  | |
|  | *Dissemination of Findings:* |  |
| D6a | How will the results be made available to participants and communities from which they are drawn? |  |
|  | *This is likely to be in the form of your MSc Dissertation but if you are also planning on publishing scientific/research papers, include that here too.* |  |
|  | Results will be displayed anonymously in the form of graphs that contain collated results. Some feedback will be presentable below in the form of a list so individuals can discern their own feedback. |  |
| D7a | What measures have been put in place to ensure security and confidentiality of personal data and any video/audio recordings ? |  |
|  | The questionnaire will not request names of participants. All individuals select the themes from the set provided that they deem adequate for a environmental website. Personal information will not be taken, feedback presented will also be anonymous. |  |
| D7b | Where and by whom will the data be analysed? |  |
|  | Myself, on a secure personal laptop with internet access. My supervisor Helen will also be provided access through a secure link. |  |
| D7c | Who will have access to the data generated by the study? |  |
|  | Myself and my supervisor (Helen) |  |
| D7d | When will personal data and any video/audio recordings be destroyed following completion of the research ? |  |
|  | As soon as the project has been completed and results have been returned |  |
|  | *Peer Review:* |  |
| D8a | Has the quality of the research been assessed? | No |
|  | If yes, then indicate how the research has been assessed (please upload copies of any referees' comments or other scientific critique reports): |  |
|  | *This would normally just be a note to say that your supervisory team have reviewed your protocol. It would be great to include some feedback from them here.* |  |
| D9a | Please Specify Name of Sponsoring Organisation (if applicable): |  |
|  | Aston University |  |
| D10a | Is insurance cover provided by the sponsor ?: | Yes/No |
| D11a | *Contact Details of Other Investigators:* |  |
|  | *This should include all other supervisors.* |  |

## STATEMENT BY RESEARCH SUPERVISOR & STUDENT:

## I consider that the details given constitute a true summary of the project and that the hazards and potential risks to any participant are accurately described. I undertake to abide by the ethical principles underlying the Declaration of Helsinki and good practice guidelines on the proper conduct of research. The Principal Investigator is the main point of contact for the University Ethics Committee, and accordingly should be a member of academic staff of the University (this implies that supervisors of research students will be the Principal Investigator and main point of contact).

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|  | Signature | Date |
| Principal Investigator Or Supervisor of Student |  |  |
| Student | Abbas Gure | 05/06/2021 |