

Professional Ethics in Computing: Seminar 4

Step 1. Consider this scenario [10 minutes]

Suppose you are a research team who want to develop mobile phone software to help elderly people with dementia. The software is carefully designed to provide prompts and hints for their daily activity and remembering personal information. It also has mental exercises.

Your research team have permission form a care home in Ningbo with 100 elderly residents to trial the software there, in principle, and are seeking funding from Ningbo municipal government.

On completion of the research, your team plan to use the data and results as a material for an article to be delivered at a respected international health care conference.

Step 2. Compile research ethics statement [40 minutes]

Work in your teams to compile a proposal for data collection and use for this research project. Consider the criterion in the “Considerations for Research Participant Information” and “Data Use in China” slides in Lecture 5. Also, consider issues around data usage and anonymization.

Prepare your proposal into a short slide set. To keep this task manageable, keep your proposal to 3-4 slides, although a real proposal will be much longer.

Step 3. Submit slides to Moodle (unassessed).

Submit file as “Team<n>_seminar4.pptx” or “.pdf”.

Step 4. Presentations [20 minutes]

Three groups are selected to present their conclusions (5 minutes each), followed by discussion.

Hint

Organize your thinking and proposal under these headings:

- The research
 - Aims and objectives of the research
 - Funder
 - Governance
- Taking part (*who will take part; explain*)
- Data usage (*what is intended use of the data?*).
- Risks and mitigation
- Data processing
- Storage and retention (*consider data security*).
- Third party recipients, services, transfers
- Legal rights and authorship
- Ethical rights (*privacy; data ownership; control*).
- Consent to participate (*consider who you need to gain consent from*).