



MSc Computing Project Research Proposal and Ethical Approval Form

Student Details

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|----------------------------|--|
| Student name | |
| Proposed title of research | |
| Supervisor | |

Section 1 Research Proposal

Provide a Research Proposal which addressed the following (in no more than 2000 words):

1. An introduction to the problem and the motivation behind your project, including your research question.
2. The project aims and its supporting objectives.
3. A skeleton of your literature review, highlighting key sections and the underlying topics.
4. An overview of the research methods that you will use for data collection and analysis.
5. A breakdown of your project into work packages, including a description of the artefact(s) to be created and your timeline.
6. For Cyber Security projects only, please indicate the CyBOK category and knowledge area applicable to your project.



Remember to use UoEO Harvard referencing. A Gantt chart or similar can be used for your timeline.

Section 2 Ethical approval

Use the following headings to describe and discuss how you intend to deal with ethical issues in relation to your research. You should consult the university guidelines and project module content to help you to do this. Acknowledge how you propose to address the issues if your research or part of your research is going to take place online. (**No more than 2000 words**)

1. Consent

How do you intend to seek informed consent from participants?



2. Right to withdraw

How do you intend to inform participants of their right to withdraw?

3. Confidentiality

How do you intend to maintain confidentiality?



4. Harm

How do you intend to protect participants from harm?

5. Data access, storage and security

Please confirm that all personal data will be stored and processed in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Describe the arrangements for storing and maintaining the security of any personal data collected as part of the project.



6. Other issues

Identify any specific ethical issues relating to this research, for example if your research involves vulnerable groups like young children, or pupils who have SEND (special educational needs/disability).



Section 3 Risk Assessment

If your research does not involve human participants, you are able to enter “N/A” in the comment box.

1. Are there any potential risks, for example physical, psychological, social, legal or economic, to participants or subjects associated with the proposed research?

YES / NO

Please provide full details of the potential risks and explain what risk management procedures will be put in place to minimise the risks:

2. Are there any potential risks to researchers as a consequence of undertaking this proposal?

YES / NO

Please provide details and explain what risk management procedures will be put in place to minimise this.



3. Are there any potential reputational risks to the University of Essex Online as a consequence of undertaking this proposal?

YES / NO

Please provide full details and explain what risk management procedures will be put in place to minimise this.

4. Will the research involve individuals below the age of 18 or individuals of 18 years and over with a limited capacity to give informed consent?

YES / NO

(If yes, a Disclosure and Barring Service disclosure (DBS check) may be required. Please attach as part of your application). Give further details of participants below.

5. Are there any other ethical issues that have not been addressed, which you would wish to bring to our attention?

YES / NO

Give details below:



Section 4 Confirmation Statements

The results of research should benefit society directly or by generally improving knowledge and understanding. I confirm that my research project has a potential benefit. (If you cannot identify a benefit, you must discuss your project with your supervisors to help identify one or adapt your proposal so the study will have an identifiable benefit.)

I confirm that I have read the Research Ethics Policy and the relevant sections of the Research Ethics Procedures and will adhere to these in the conduct of this project.

(These statements must be ticked in the form.)

Signature

Date and Signature space are available in the form.

Attachments

You are required to attach the following documents to this form:

1. An example of your participant information sheet and consent form, if applicable.
2. Consent document from the organisation your research is taking place, if applicable.