

# Dublin City University School of Computing ETHICS COMMITTEE

# NOTIFICATION FORM FOR LOW-RISK PROJECTS AT UNDERGRADUATE OR TAUGHT MASTERS LEVELS

Application Number:			
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Please read the following information carefully before completing your application. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will make your submission ineligible for review.

- Download this form
- Completed applications must be uploaded to your School of Computing GitLab repo, and must be located in "docs/ethics.pdf".
- Your supervisor will be notified automatically and must approve your approach initially.
- The application should consist of one electronic file (PDF) only. The completed application must include this form and also must incorporate all supplementary documentation, especially that being given to the proposed participants e.g consent forms, plain English language statement. It must be proofread and spell-checked before submission.
- All sections of the application form must be answered as instructed and within the word limits given.

Applications which do not adhere to all of these requirements will not be accepted for review and will require resubmission

Applications must be completed on this form; answers in the form of attachments will not be accepted, except where indicated. No hard copy applications will be accepted. The project <u>must not</u> commence until written approval has been received from the School of Computing Ethics Committee.

PROJECT TITLE	Acclimate
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S)  The named Principal Investigator is the person with primary responsibility for the research project. In the case of Taught Masters projects and undergraduate projects the supervisor is the Principal Investigator.	Dr. Monica Ward
START AND END DATE	Project Start Date: 28/01/19 Planned Testing Start Date: 04/02/19
LEVEL OF RISK  Please indicate whether this project requires more than a notification Justification for your choice is required under section 3.1	Very Low

Please confirm that <u>all</u> supplementary information is included in your application (in electronic copy). If questionnaire or interview questions are submitted in draft form, please indicate this by putting (draft) after YES. A copy of the final documentation must be submitted for final approval when available.

My application has been collated as one electronic file which includes the following documentation:	INCLUDED (mark as YES)	NOT APPLICABLE (mark as N/A)
Bibliography	YES	
Recruitment advertisement		N/A
Plain language statement/Information statement	YES	
Informed consent form		N/A
Personal Data Security Schedule https://www.dcu.ie/sites/default/files/info/3. blank data security_schedule.xls		N/A
Evidence of external approvals related to the research		N/A
Questionnaire/Survey	YES	
Interview/Focus Group Questions		N/A
Debriefing material		N/A
Other (e.g. local government approval)		N/A

#### Please note:

- 1. Any amendments to the original approved proposal must receive prior SCEC approval.
- 2. As a condition of approval investigators are required to document and report immediately to SCEC any adverse events, any issues which might negatively impact on the conduct of the research and/or any complaint from a participant relating to their participation in the study

# 1. ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Project Type (select one): Undergraduate Project - non-final Year

#### 1.1 INVESTIGATOR CONTACT DETAILS

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S): Your supervisor and other academic staff who are assisting, it should be clear who is the person who is carrying out the research procedures.

NAME	SCHOOL/UNIT	EMAIL
Monica Ward	School of Computing	monica.ward@dcu.ie

# OTHER INVESTIGATORS (STUDENT(S):

NAME	SCHOOL/UNIT	EMAIL
Uzair Ali	School of Computing	uzair.ali2@mail.dcu.ie
Jamie Hyland	School of Computing	jamie.hyland26@mail.dcu.ie

1.2	WILL THE RESEARCH BE UNDERTAKEN ON-SITE AT A Dublin City University CAMPUS ?  YES or NO YES
<u>2.7.)</u>	(If NO, state details of the off-campus location – provide details of the approval to gain access to that location in section
1.3	IS THIS PROTOCOL BEING SUBMITTED TO ANOTHER ETHICS COMMITTEE, OR HAS IT BEEN PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TO AN ETHICS COMMITTEE?  YES OF NO NO  (If YES, please provide details and attach copies of approval(s) received etc.)
The int Universiset ou (https:// Code of Ethics	ARATION BY PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S) formation contained herein is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, accurate. I have read the sity's current research ethics guidelines, and accept responsibility for the conduct of the procedures in the attached application in accordance with the form guidelines, the SCEC guidelines (/www.dcu.ie/researchsupport/researchethics.shtml), the University's policy on Conflict of Interest, of Good Research Practice and any other condition laid down by the Dublin City University Research Committee. I have attempted to identify all risks related to the research that may arise in conducting search and acknowledge my obligations and the rights of the participants.
other c	e exists any affiliation or financial interest for researcher(s) in this research or its outcomes or any circumstances which might represent a perceived, potential or actual conflict of interest this should lared in accordance with Dublin City University policy on Conflicts of Interest.
to con	ny co-investigators or supporting staff have the appropriate qualifications, experience and facilities duct the research set out in the attached application and to deal with any emergencies and gencies related to the research that may arise.
Electro	nic Signature(s): Mones War
	al investigator(s):
Print Na	ame(s) here:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2. PROJECT OUTLINE

## **2.1 LAY DESCRIPTION** (Max. 300 words)

Please outline, in terms that any non-expert would understand, what your research project is about, including what participants will be required to do. Please explain any technical terms or discipline-specific phrases.

Our research project is to test the adequacy of the User Interface we have designed and implemented for our website application. Participants will be required to use the interface and provide feedback through the form of a survey or allow the investigators to observe their interaction.

# 2.2 AIMS OF AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THE RESEARCH (Max. 400 words)

State the aims and significance of the project. Where relevant, state the specific hypothesis to be tested. Please provide a brief description of background research, a justification as to why this research project should proceed in that context and an explanation of any expected benefits to the community. NB – all references cited should be listed in an attached bibliography.

"Ensuring that the User Interface is both aesthetically pleasing and intuitively easy to use." Background research has been done into design principles and heuristics necessary for an effective user interface.

#### 2.3 DESCRIBE THE METHODOLOGY BEING USED TO ACHIEVE YOUR STATED AIMS

Provide an outline of the proposed method and state who is doing which task – include details of data collection techniques, the tasks participants will be asked to do, the estimated time commitment involved, and how data will be analysed. If the project includes any procedure which is beyond already established and accepted techniques please include a description of it. There should be enough detail provided to facilitate ethical review, but applicants are encouraged to keep it as succinct as possible.

Participants will use and interact with the User Interface through a computer for 3 minutes (or more, if necessary) and once they finish, they will be given an online survey, through Google Forms, to fill out.

Or, participants will be sat down and their interaction with the User Interface will be observed by investigators Mr. Uzair Ali and Mr. Jamie Hyland.

All data will be analyzed by referencing design principles and heuristics.

#### 2.4 PARTICIPANT PROFILE

Provide the number, age range and source of participants. Please provide a justification of your proposed sample size. Please provide a justification for selecting a specific gender, age, or any other group if this is done in your project.

**Number:** ~10 participants required **Age Range:** 19-25 years of age

Source: Students of Dublin City University

Students who are on the autism spectrum will also be required for the study. Half of the application's user base will consist of these types of individuals and so it is of utmost importance that they are able to interact with the User Interface as effectively as possible.

### 2.4(a) PARTICIPANT VULNERABILITY

Are some or all of participants vulnerable in any way? (e.g by virtue of the group they belong to, people who have undergone traumatic or adverse emotional events, people with diminished cognitive ability, power relations between researchers and

participants etc.)? If they are, state what this vulnerability (or vulnerabilities) is and justify why this research is being done with such participants.

The participants who are on the autism spectrum are considered vulnerable. This vulnerability occurs because of people's overestimation of a person with understanding language, social situations, emotions, organizations and theory of mind. However, all research conducted will be done so in a controlled environment where everything is made as clear as possible and all participants are free to ask questions or withdraw consent at any time, until submission of their answers.

# 2.4(b) CHILD PARTICIPANTS (anyone under 18 years old)

If your participants include children, you must confirm that you are in compliance with the research specific guidelines as detailed in "Keeping Children Safe - Policies and Procedures supporting Child Protection at DCU" - available at: <a href="https://www4.dcu.ie/sites/default/files/policy/157%20-%20child\_protection\_handbook\_rev1%282%29%281%29.pd">https://www4.dcu.ie/sites/default/files/policy/157%20-%20child\_protection\_handbook\_rev1%282%29%281%29.pd</a>

Please indicate your compliance with the following guidelines:	Mark here
We confirm that we have read and agree to act in accordance with the DCU Child	
Protection policy and procedures	
We confirm that we have put in place safeguards for the children participating in the	
research	
We confirm that we have supports in place for children who may disclose current or	
historical abuse (whether or not this is the focus of the research)	

# 2.5 EXPLAIN HOW PARTICIPANTS ARE TO BE RECRUITED

Please provide specific details as to how you will be recruiting participants. How will people be informed that you are doing this research? How will they be approached and asked if they are willing to participate? If you are mailing or phoning people, please explain how you have obtained their names and contact details. If a recruitment advertisement is to be used, please ensure you attach a copy to this application.

Most advertisement will be done through word of mouth. We will be approaching individuals around campus, explaining the application to them, providing them with a Plain Language Statement and then asking if they would like to take part in the study. Once the study is completed, we will ask them to inform their peers that this study is being carried out and to advise them to participate.

Students on the spectrum will also be recruited through word of mouth. There are students in the School of Computing willing to aid in the study.

2.6 PLEASE EXPLAIN WHEN, HOW, WHERE, AND TO WHOM RESULTS WILL BE DISSEMINATED, INCLUDING WHETHER PARTICIPANTS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH ANY INFORMATION AS TO THE FINDINGS OR OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT?

Results are immediately available to investigators through Google Forms. They will not be shared with anyone, for any reason, unless explicitly asked by an external examiner. Google Forms will also ensure that all data is protected and disposed of adequately.

2.7	ARE OTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED TO GAIN ACCESS TO ANOTHER LOCATION, ORGANISATION ETC.?  YES or NO NO
	(If YES, please specify from whom and attach a copy of the approval documentation. If this is not yet available, please explain when this will be obtained.)
2.8	HAS A SIMILAR PROPOSAL BEEN PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE DCU SCEC?  YES or NO NO
	(If YES, please state both the REC Application Number and Project Title)

# 3. RISK AND RISK MANAGEMENT

#### 3.1 JUSTIFICATION OF STATED LEVEL OF RISK TO RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

You must provide a justification for the stated level of risk, as indicated on the cover page of your application. Note that the level of risk may be influenced by the vulnerability of the research group, the methods employed and the nature of the research itself. For further information on risk levels, please refer to the Levels of Review information on the website: https://www.dcu.ie/researchsupport/researchethics.shtml

Since we will be conducting anonymous surveys and observations, there is very low risk to the participants involved, even to the members of the vulnerable group previously discussed. Participants have the right to withdraw from the study at any time, for any reason, without penalization, until submission of their answers.

#### 3.2 DOES THE RESEARCH INVOLVE:

	YES or NO
<ul><li>use of a questionnaire? (attach copy)?</li></ul>	YES
<ul><li>interviews (attach interview questions)?</li></ul>	NO
<ul> <li>observation of participants without their knowledge?</li> </ul>	NO
<ul> <li>participant observation (provide details in section 2)?</li> </ul>	YES
<ul> <li>audio- or video-taping interviewees or events?</li> </ul>	NO
<ul> <li>access to personal and/or confidential data (including student, patient or client data) without the participant's specific consent?</li> </ul>	NO
<ul> <li>administration of any stimuli, tasks, investigations or procedures which may be experienced by participants as physically or mentally painful, stressful or unpleasant during or after the research process?</li> </ul>	NO
<ul> <li>performance of any acts which might diminish the self-esteem of participants or cause them to experience embarrassment, regret or depression?</li> </ul>	NO
<ul><li>investigation of participants involved in illegal activities?</li></ul>	NO
<ul><li>procedures that involve deception of participants?</li></ul>	NO
<ul><li>administration of any substance or agent?</li></ul>	NO
<ul> <li>use of non-treatment of placebo control conditions?</li> </ul>	NO
<ul> <li>collection of body tissues or fluid samples?</li> </ul>	NO
<ul><li>collection and/or testing of DNA samples?</li></ul>	NO
participation in a clinical trial?	NO
<ul> <li>administration of ionising radiation to participants?</li> </ul>	NO

# 3.3 POTENTIAL RISKS TO PARTICIPANTS AND RISK MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

Identify, as far as possible, all potential risks to participants (physical, psychological, social, legal, economic, etc.), associated with the proposed research. Please explain what risk management procedures will be put in place to minimise these risks.

There is very little risk to all participants that chose to be involved with this study, including vulnerable participants. All research conducted will be done so in a controlled environment where everything is made as clear as possible and all participants are free to ask questions or withdraw consent at any time, until submission of their answers.

3.4	ARE THERE LIKELY TO BE ANY BENEFITS (DIRECT OR INDIRECT) TO PARTICIPANTS FROM THIS RESEARCH?  YES OF NO NO  (If YES, provide details.)
3.5	ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC RISKS TO RESEARCHERS?  Examples include use of dangerous materials, asking certain types of questions, research being undertaken in certain locations, researchers working alone in isolated areas, etc.
	YES or NO NO
	(If YES, please describe and explain what risk management procedures will be put in place to minimise these risks.)
3.6	DEALING WITH ADVERSE/UNEXPECTED OUTCOMES  Please describe what measures/protocols you have put in place in the event that there are any unexpected outcomes or adverse effects to participants arising from involvement in the project.
	Investigators are in touch with DCU Disability Support for this study to ensure that any unexpected outcomes or adverse effects are dealt with in an appropriate manner.
3.7	HOW WILL THE CONDUCT OF THE PROJECT BE MONITORED?  Please explain how the principal investigator will monitor the conduct of the project (especially where several people are
	involved in recruiting or interviewing, administering procedures, etc.) to ensure that it conforms with the procedures set out in this application. In the case of student projects please give details of how the supervisor(s) will monitor the conduct of the project.
	Principal supervisor will be given status updates through email and via weekly meetings.
3.8	SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPANTS  Depending on risks to participants you may need to consider having additional support for participants during/after the
	study. Consider whether your project would require additional support, e.g., external counselling available to participants.  Please advise what support will be available.
	As investigators of this study are in touch with DCU Disability Support, there will be counselling available for students after the study.
3.9	DO YOU PROPOSE TO OFFER PAYMENTS OR INCENTIVES TO PARTICIPANTS?  YES or NO NO

(If YES, please provide further details.)

NO	FINANCIAI INTEGRITY UNDULY D YES or N	OR COMMERCIAN OF THE RESEAR OELAY OR OTHERV	L INTEREST IN ITS O	ECT HAVE A PERSONAL, UTCOME THAT MIGHT II DNDUCT OR REPORTING PUBLICATION?	NFLUENCE THE
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# 4. INVESTIGATORS' QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS (Approx. 200 words)

List the academic qualifications and outline the experience and skills <u>relevant to this project</u> that the PI, other researchers and any supporting staff have in carrying out the research and in dealing with any emergencies, unexpected outcomes, or contingencies that may arise. **State specifically who will be carrying out the research procedures** 

Dr. Monica Ward: Has conducted many similar studies before and has a PhD in a similar field.

Mr. Uzair Ali: Currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Computer Applications and Software Engineering and has previously conducted similar studies.

Mr. Jamie Hyland: Currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Computer Applications and Software Engineering and has previously conducted similar studies.

# 5. CONFIDENTIALITY/ANONYMITY

# 5.1 WILL THE IDENTITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS BE PROTECTED?

	• • •	=		
YES	or	N	10	
YES	;			

/If	NO	pleas	e eyn	lain ı	why

### IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO 5.1, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

# 5.2 HOW WILL THE ANONYMITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS BE RESPECTED?

Please bear in mind that where the sample size is very small, it may be impossible to guarantee anonymity/confidentiality of participant identity. Participants involved in such projects need to be advised of this limitation in the Plain Language Statement/Information Sheet. If you intend to fully anonymize the data, please provide details

No personal information will be asked for by any of the investigators. The only recorded information will be the answers that participants give to the survey and the information recorded by the investigators during observation.

#### 5.3 LEGAL LIMITATIONS TO DATA CONFIDENTIALITY

Participants need to be made aware that confidentiality of information provided cannot always be guaranteed by researchers and can only be protected within the limitations of the law - i.e., it is possible for data to be subject to subpoena, freedom of information claim or mandated reporting by some professions. This information should be included in your Plain Language Statement and Informed Consent Form. Depending on the research proposal and academic discipline, you may need to state additional specific limitations.

State how and where participants will be informed of these limitations

Participants are made aware of these limitations in the Plain Languages Statement that will be given to all individuals before they agree to participate in the study.

6.	PERSONAL DATA - COMPLIANCE WITH THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION				
from the DCU and	data is data relating to a living individual (i.e. the 'Data Subject') who is, or can be, identified either from to data in conjunction with other information that is in, or is likely to come into, the possession of the 'Data Co I its constituent units e.g. research teams etc.). <b>Further information on personal data is available from</b> on Unit at https://www.dcu.ie/ocoo/dp/guides.shtml	ontroller' (i.e.			
6.1	IS PERSONAL DATA BEING PROCESSED AS PART OF THIS PROJECT?  YES or NO NO				
	If YES, Please indicate your compliance with the following guidelines:	Mark here			
	We confirm that we have read and agree to act in accordance with DCU Data				
	Protection Unit guidance and procedures regarding personal data				
	We confirm that we have put in place a Personal Data Security Schedule (PDSS) for				
	the project and have attached it to this application				
	Please see the GDPR and the Research Ethics Process section of the SCEC mail	n webpage for			
	guidance guidance				
IF YOU	ANSWERED YES TO 6.1, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:				
6.2	WHAT KIND OF PERSONAL DATA IS BEING PROCESSED?	othoricity/race of			
	Note special categories of personal data include health data, genetic data and/or data relating to participants, their sex lives and/or sexual orientation	etnnicity/race or			
6.3	WILL ANONYMISATION/PSEUDONYMISATION OF THE PERSONAL DATA BE UNDERT YES or NO	AKEN?			
	(If NO, please explain why.)				

# 7. DATA/SAMPLE STORAGE, SECURITY AND DISPOSAL

For the purpose of this section, "Data" includes that in a raw or processed state (e.g. interview audiotape, transcript or analysis). "Samples" include body fluids or tissue samples.

# 7.1 HOW AND WHERE WILL THE DATA/SAMPLES BE STORED?

Note that the SCEC recommends that all data be stored on campus - please justify any off-site storage.

As all surveys will be conducted through Google Forms, this data will be stored by Google. All data obtained through observation will be stored in computers on campus.

#### 7.2 WHO WILL HAVE ACCESS TO DATA/SAMPLES?

If people other than the main researchers have access, please name who they are and explain for what purpose.

Main researchers and possibly external examiners, if explicitly requested.

#### 7.3 HOW LONG IS THE DATA TO BE HELD/RETAINED FOR?

Note that with very few exceptions **personal data** may not be retained indefinitely. It is up to the unit or research team to establish an upper retention limit for each category of personal data under its control.

No more than two weeks after 27/02/19.

# 7.4 IF DATA/SAMPLES ARE TO BE DISPOSED OF, PLEASE EXPLAIN <u>HOW</u>, <u>WHEN</u> AND <u>BY WHOM</u> THIS WILL BE DONE?

Note that simply deleting files is not sufficiently secure. The additional steps to be taken to maintain data security should be given. **Personal data** must be disposed of in a safe and secure manner at the end of its retention period. If the data is stored in a: a) paper based format then shredding or disposal via a secure bin is recommended; or b) if it is stored in an electronic based format then deletion of the record or full anonymization of the data is recommended. If data/samples are NOT being disposed of, please justify this decision.

No personal data is being collected. Google Forms will ensure all data that is collected is sufficiently protected and disposed of.

8.	FUNDING OF THE RESEARCH
8.1	HOW IS THIS WORK BEING FUNDED, IF IT IS EXTERNALLY FUNDED?  This work is not being externally funded in any way.
8.2	PROJECT GRANT NUMBER (If relevant and/or known – otherwise mark as N/A)  N/A
.3	DOES THE PROJECT REQUIRE APPROVAL BEFORE CONSIDERATION FOR FUNDING BY GRANTING BODY?  YES OF NO NO
3.4.1	HOW WILL PARTICIPANTS BE INFORMED OF THE SOURCE OF THE FUNDING? (e.g. included in the Plain Language Statement)  This will not be required as the project is not externally funded. However, they will be informed in the Plain Language Statement that it is part of a project for the School of Computing.
3.5	DO THE FUNDERS OF THIS PROJECT HAVE A PERSONAL, FINANCIAL OR COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN ITS OUTCOME THAT MIGHT COMPROMISE THE INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF THE RESEARCH, OR BIAS THE CONDUCT OR REPORTING OF THE RESEARCH, OR UNDULY DELAY OR OTHERWISE AFFECT THEIR PUBLICATION?  YES OF NO NO
	(If YES, please specify how this conflict of interest will be addressed.)

# PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT (Attach to this document, Approx. 400 words)

A Plain Language Statement (PLS) should be used in all cases. This is written information in plain language that you will be providing to participants, outlining the nature of their involvement in the project and inviting their participation. The PLS should specifically describe what will be expected of participants, the risks and inconveniences for them, and other information relevant to their involvement. Please note that the language used must reflect the participant age group and corresponding comprehension level – if your participants have different comprehension levels (e.g. both adults and children) then separate forms should be prepared for each group. The PLS can be embedded in an email to which an online survey is attached, or handed/sent to individuals in advance of their consent being sought. See link to sample templates on the website:

https://www.dcu.ie/researchsupport/ethicsapproval.shtml

# PLEASE CONFIRM WHETHER THE FOLLOWING ISSUES HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED IN YOUR PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT/ INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS:

	YES or NO
Introductory Statement (PI and researcher names, school, title of the research)	YES
What is this research about?	YES
Why is this research being conducted?	YES
What will happen if the person decides to participate in the research study?	YES
How will their privacy be protected?	YES
How will the data be used and subsequently disposed of?	YES
What are the legal limitations to data confidentiality?	YES
What are the benefits of taking part in the research study (if any)?	YES
What are the risks of taking part in the research study?	YES
Confirmation that participants can change their mind at any stage and withdraw from the study	YES
How will participants find out what happens with the project?	YES
Contact details for further information (including SCEC contact details)	YES
Details relating to GDPR Compliance if Personal Data is being sought	NO

If any of these issues are marked NO, please justify their exclusion:

Details relating to GDPR Compliance if Personal Data is being sought - No personal data is being sought

# **10. INFORMED CONSENT FORM** (Attach to this document. Approx. 300 words)

In most cases where interviews or focus groups are taking place, an Informed Consent Form is required. This is an important document requiring participants to indicate their consent to participate in the study, and give their signature. If your participants are minors (under 18), it is best practice to provide them with an assent form, while their parents/guardians will be given the Informed Consent Form. In cases where an anonymous questionnaire is being used, it is enough to include a tick box in the questionnaire (underneath the information section for participant), where participants can indicate their consent.

See link to sample templates on the website: https://www.dcu.ie/researchsupport/ethicsapproval.shtml

# NB - IF AN INFORMED CONSENT FORM IS NOT BEING USED, THE REASON FOR THIS MUST BE JUSTIFIED HERE.

A tick box will be included in the survey asking the participants if they are willing to take part in the study.

# **Bibliography**

Autism & Vulnerability - https://autismawarenesscentre.com/autism-and-vulnerability/

Theory of Mind - <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theory">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theory</a> of mind

Heuristic Analysis - <a href="https://www.interaction-design.org/literature/article/shneiderman-s-eight-golden-rules-will-help-you-design-better-interfaces">https://www.interaction-design.org/literature/article/shneiderman-s-eight-golden-rules-will-help-you-design-better-interfaces</a>

Principles of Design - https://99designs.ie/blog/tips/principles-of-design/

# **Survey Questions**

Do you consent to take part in this study?

How easy is navigation of the login/register page?

How easy is navigation of the dashboard?

Please rate the color scheme in terms of clarity.

Please rate the color scheme in terms of aesthetic appeal.

Please rate the overall website in terms of aesthetic appeal.

Please make any suggestions on improvements below.

# **Plain Language Statement**

The purpose of this study is to analyse the adequacy of the User Interface for our website application as part of our third-year project for the School of Computing. The lead investigator in this study is Dr. Monica Ward, aided by investigators Mr. Uzair Ali and Mr. Jamie Hyland.

All data collected from both surveys and user testing will be completely anonymous. We will not ask you for your name or any other personal details about you. The only pieces of information collected and stored will be your answers to the surveys and your interactions with our User Interface. This information will be gathered and analysed to help us to improve this User Interface. This data will not be shared with any external parties. This information will be held for no longer than two weeks, as of 27/02/19. Participation in this study is completely voluntary. You have the right to withdraw your participation from the study at any time, for any reason, without penalisation, until you submit your answers.

All data will be gathered and analysed using Google Forms. This ensures that all data is protected and is only available to the investigators and possibly any external examiners, upon request. This also means data will be disposed of adequately once it is no longer required.

Participation in this study will require you to use our User Interface and either answer questions in survey form or allow the investigators to observe your interaction and take notes, or both. The investigators will outline which of these two are required from you.

By taking part, you will be helping us to design a User Interface that is easy for all users to use should this app become available to DCU students.

For further information in relation to any aspect of this project, please contact either of the investigators by email at uzair.ali2@mail.dcu.ie / jamie.hyland26@mail.dcu.ie

If participants have concerns about this study and wish to contact an independent person,

# please contact:

The Secretary, Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee, c/o Research and Innovation Support, Dublin City University, Dublin 9. Tel 01-7008000, e-mail rec@dcu.ie