

**A: Applicant details**

Your Name	Avery Aidan Black
Student/Staff Number	1803315
Abertay email address	1803315@abertay.ac.uk
Name Of Programme (if applicable)	Complex game world simulations with simple and abstracted player interaction
Module code	CMP400
School	<div>School of Design and Informatics (SDI)</div> <div>Required</div>
Is this a revised re-submission?	<div>No</div> <div>Required, feedback is available in the 'View Notes' section</div>
Supervisor email address	w.kavanagh@abertay.ac.uk

**A2: Resubmission details**

Revision details

## B: Project details

Project title	Complex game world simulations with simple and abstracted player interaction
Main aim of project	To design and develop a detailed game world simulation with two systems of player interaction, one consisting of simple and abstracted levers of player interaction, and one giving the player more direct control. This project will attempt to evaluate how effective the first system is at keeping player interaction simple, engaging, and accessible while still gaining depth from the detail and complexity of the game world in comparison to the second system.
Proposed start date	<input type="text" value="07/11/2022"/> Required
Proposed end date	<input type="text" value="09/05/2023"/> Required
Site of research	Abertay University
What is the nature of this research?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="radio"/> Reviewing existing non-ethically sensitive literature</li><li><input type="radio"/> Reviewing existing literature which may be considered ethically sensitive</li><li><input type="radio"/> Non-ethically sensitive practical research</li><li><input checked="" type="radio"/> Ethically sensitive practical research</li></ul> <p>Required</p> <p>Ethically sensitive research: anything involving humans, including surveys, interviews and samples; collection of data deemed 'sensitive' according to GDPR rules; animal subjects requiring Home Office license; genetic modification; computer "hacking" on anything other than your own systems or those provided specifically for that purpose (such as Hacklab systems).</p> <p>Practical research: all research involving observations and measurements, including practical work, experiments, surveys, fieldwork, interviews, etc. NB any research project that is not based exclusively on analyzing previously published data is defined as a 'practical' project.</p>

### C: External projects (if applicable)

Name of external  
body

Status of external  
application

- ☐ Not yet applied for
- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Pending
- ☐ Declined
- ☐ External ethical approval not required

External ethics  
application reference

Date approved (if  
applicable)

### D: Studies involving animals or biological samples, human participants

Special issues with  
biological samples

- ☐ D1. Research involving animals of a type requiring a Home Office licence
- ☐ D2. Research involving genetic modification (GM)
- ☐ D3. Research involving stored human samples, for example organs, tissues, cells (excluding established cell lines)

Does the project  
involve human  
participants in any  
way, including  
surveys

  
Required

### E: Studies with human participants

Tick all statements  
that apply

- ☒ E1. You will describe the main experimental procedures to participants in advance, so that they are informed about what to expect
- ☒ E2. You will inform participants that their participation is voluntary
- ☒ E3. You will obtain explicit informed consent for participation
- ☒ E4. If the research is observational, you will ask participants for their consent to being observed
- ☒ E5. You will tell participants that they may withdraw from the research at any time and for any reason
- ☒ E6. With questionnaires you will give participants the option of omitting questions they do not want to answer
- ☒ E7. You will tell participants their data will be treated with full confidentiality and that, if published, it will not be identifiable as theirs unless they explicitly consent to be identified.
- ☒ E8. You will comply with all GDPR requirements outlined in the Universities policy document
- ☒ E9. You will debrief participants at the end of their participation (i.e. give them a brief explanation of the study)
- ☒ E10. You will NOT deliberately mislead participants in any way
- ☒ E11. Your study will NOT involve a significant risk of participants or researchers experiencing either physical or psychological distress or discomfort

If any statement is NOT ticked, you must ensure that the reasons for this are made explicit in Section G

E12. Will the project involve members of any special groups listed below, or another vulnerable group?

- ☐ Children (under 16 years of age)
- ☐ Schoolchildren of all ages
- ☐ Any person who may have difficulty understanding information provided to them
- ☐ Patients
- ☐ People in custody
- ☐ People engaged in illegal activities (e.g. drug taking)

If another vulnerable group not listed here is involved, please enter that in the "other" box

**F: Studies not involving human or animal participants or samples**

Please describe briefly how you would plan to execute your project, giving details of your proposed methodology

**G: Details of proposed research (if applicable)**

G1. Aims of study and rationale	The research stage of this project will consist of comparing two different control systems for a game in terms of player experience. We will be looking to compare players' feelings of engagement, immersion, and control over the game world. We will also gauge the player's perception of the game's mechanical depth and particularly their perception of how easy the game's systems were to learn.
G2. External Partners	None
G3. Expertise	
G4. Participants	I hope to recruit roughly on the order of 50-100 participants. Participants will largely be recruited from the student body via online platforms such as discord. Participants will be asked to share the project with others they think might be interested. Participants will be 16 or older.
G5. Materials and/or apparatus	A webpage that will explain the purpose and nature of the study to potential participants, allows the game to be played after this is acknowledged, and then link to a questionnaire. The questionnaire will ask the participants to enter their age and gender with both fields being entirely optional. The rest of the questionnaire is yet to be determined but it will likely very closely resemble "The Game Experience Questionnaire" by IJsselstein, de Kort, and Poels (2013).
G6. Procedure	Testing will take place mostly online on a specially set up webpage, with the potential that some portion may occur in person on the University campus. For each participant, one of the two control systems will be assigned randomly and they will be asked to play the game for a set short amount of time and afterwards will be asked to fill out a short questionnaire on their experience.

## H: Ethical issues

What ethical issues (if any) does your project raise? How will you mitigate against these ethical issues?

This project raises no specific ethical issues other than those inherent in any project involving human participants. Of those, the statements selected under section E cover everything. Participants will have the procedures explained in advance, it will be explained that participation is voluntary and that they may withdraw at any time, explicit consent will be obtained, and any personal data will be appropriately managed in compliance with GDPR.

## I: Confirmation/declaration

I confirm that

- ☒ I am aware I need to submit a Risk Assessment and will do so before commencing the proposed study. Note, all studies except Literature Reviews must complete an appropriate risk assessment prior to commencing the study. (Note: you must follow whatever procedures your School has in place for the review and approval of risk assessment. Students should seek advice from their supervisor).
- ☒ I have read and understood Abertay University's policy on research ethics (see document 'Research Ethics at Abertay' on the Research Ethics intranet webpage), the Abertay University Health and Safety Policy, and any equivalent School Policy.
- ☒ For each working location (including university facilities and my home), I will identify what to do and who to contact in case of emergency, and will make myself aware of any existing safety, First Aid or emergency procedures.
- ☒ Any data collected from experiments will be stored securely within a week in Abertay University facilities following the guidance set out in the University's Data Storage Policy.
- ☒ I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure compliance with any relevant regulatory or legal requirements (such as data protection legislation, stored tissue regulations, animal experimentation licensing, etc).

- ☒ The proposed study will not discriminate against participants on the grounds of race, sex, religion or belief, sexual orientation, disability, pregnancy and maternity, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, and/or age.
- ☒ I have completed all sections of this form fully and accurately
- ☒ I understand that should I receive an Approval with Specific Conditions, I will need to comply with the Conditions set out in the Decision email
- ☒ I understand that should my application not be Approved, I will not be permitted to conduct any work on my proposed project. (In such circumstances a revised or alternative application should be submitted.)
- ☒ I understand that should I subsequently amend my study after approval has been given I will inform the ethics committee of the change, and that changes that materially affect the study may require a further submission for ethical approval.

Please also confirm that either

- ☒ 1: Your supervisor will approve any materials that you provide to human participants before use (e.g. consent forms, questionnaires, interview questions). The supervisor will be sent a copy of this form to approve before further processing.
- ☐ 2: This is a staff project, no supervisor involved

Have you included (if applicable to your project)?

- ☐ PIS/Consent form (see GDPR-compliant template on internet)
- ☐ debriefing form (or equivalent description of verbal debrief)
- ☐ proof of external permissions
- ☐ letters to parents/children/head teachers etc. Full interview/focus group schedule
- ☐ confirmation of PVG approval (written – please do not attach PVG)
- ☐ adverts/flyers for participants