



# Northumbria University

## NEWCASTLE

### Main Ethics Application Form

Are you a student or member of staff?

- ☐ Staff
- ☒ Student

Please confirm your level of study:

- ☐ Undergraduate
- ☒ Postgraduate Taught
- ☐ Postgraduate Research

Please choose your Faculty or Service from the list:

- ☐ Arts Design and Social Sciences
- ☐ Business and Law
- ☒ Engineering and Environment
- ☐ Health and Life Sciences
- ☐ Campus Services
- ☐ Finance
- ☐ Global Marketing and Business Services
- ☐ Human Resources
- ☐ IT Services
- ☐ Research and innovation Services
- ☐ Student, Library and Academic Services
- ☐ Vice Chancellors Office

Please choose your Department from the Faculty of Engineering and Environment

- ☐ Architecture and Built Environment
- ☒ Computer and Information Sciences
- ☐ Geography and Environmental Sciences
- ☐ Mathematics, Physics and Electrical Engineering
- ☐ Mechanical and Construction Engineering

Does your research require external approval? i.e., NHS, MoD, Social Care

☐ Yes

☒ No

Is this application linked to a Module Level Approval

☐ Yes

☒ No

Is your application linked to an academic-led project?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please input the name of your Module Tutor

First Name

Alan

Surname

Godfrey

Please input the name of your Supervisor

First Name

Alan

Surname

Godfrey

## Ethical Review Categories

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Does your study involve any of the following: (tick all that apply)

- ☐ Gathering data or information from human participants (e.g. via questionnaire / interview/survey/experiment/ VR)
- ☒ Collecting personal data, i.e. name, email, home address, computer IP address, phone number etc.
- ☒ Analysis of secondary data either in or outside of the public domain
- ☐ Lab-based research
- ☐ The collection or use of information which is 'commercially sensitive'
- ☐ Financial inducements other than expenses and compensation for time
- ☐ Gathering data/information at a physical location external to Northumbria University campuses, franchised locations, and not your normal place of work
- ☐ Collection of samples such as plants, soils etc, that might disturb the environment or archaeological remains
- ☐ Individuals or groups where permission of a gatekeeper is normally required for initial or continued access to participants (e.g. NGOs, community leaders)
- ☐ Research with potentially vulnerable participants or groups, including people under 18 (which may require DBS clearance)
- ☐ Discussion (e.g. interviews) of highly sensitive topics that may cause undue stress to participants, and researchers, including, but not exclusively: sexual behaviour, drug use; abuse or exploitation; trauma; pornography.
- ☐ Funding from a source that may be controversial (e.g. due to the nature of the funder, or a conflict of interest).
- ☐ Covert methods of investigation or deception.
- ☐ Research with international partners, or research undertaken outside of the UK where there may be issues of local practice and political sensitivities.
- ☐ Access to records of personal or sensitive confidential information, including genetic or other biological information concerning identifiable individuals
- ☐ Intrusive interventions including the use of drugs or other substances (e.g. food, drink, placebos or drugs); and, or, procedures involving physical distress (e.g. prolonged testing) or emotional distress (e.g. stress or anxiety), that are greater than those you would encounter in everyday life.
- ☒ Work that involves direct observation of, or participation in, activities during which it is anticipated that illegal activity, or regulatory breach is likely to occur (e.g. hunting, drug dealing, accessing the dark web, hacking).
- ☐ Access to or collection of data, information, materials (e.g. magazines, publications, websites, and social media) relating to extremism, radicalisation or terrorism (including extreme or terror groups).
- ☐ Funding/ sponsorship from, or the involvement of, the UK Ministry of Defence, Military (UK and International), and or, EU Security funding call.
- ☐ The collection of data/information that might be confidential or classified (e.g. protected by the Official Secrets Act) .
- ☐ The funding body e.g. ESRC funded projects require REC review.
- ☐ The collection of bodily tissue e.g. blood, saliva, urine samples from living persons (which may require licence under the HTA and additional training).
- ☐ Culturally sensitive art, artefacts or monuments, or sites.
- ☐ Research with animal subjects

## General Aims and Research Design

Project Title

Website risk

Outline the general aims and research objectives of the project.

Collecting logs of website traffic and then analysing them with a formula

Please give a detailed description of your research activities, any ethical issues and how they are addressed:

Information will be collected from various websites. Data will be analyzed by a formula to see if attacks can be detected.  
Ethical issues - I will know the IP address of visitors to a website. However, this is only used to interpret the location and networks belongs to. This will not be used to identify individual people.  
Another ethical issue is there may be data that was an attack on a website when this is the case I will inform the website owner. This research is not going to cause any more attacks on websites and the research will not attack any websites although they may look at relevant theories.

## People and Personal Data

Describe the data pertaining to living individuals you will be collecting

IP address

Describe your sample groups or how you will identify participants

The data is collected automatically by people visiting a website the research will not collect any data that isn't already collected automatically

Legal basis for processing

- ☐ Where the University processes personal data, in most cases, we do so under article 6(1)(e) GDPR, which permits processing that is 'necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller'
- ☒ Where the University processes special categories of personal data, in most cases, we do so under Article 9(2)(j) GDPR, which permits processing that is necessary for scientific or historical research purposes, providing we have appropriate security safeguards in place

Describe your recruitment process

Not Applicable

Describe any remuneration for participants

Not Applicable

Type of consent

Other

Please provide details of the consent used:

If the study involves participants who lack capacity to consent, procedures in line with sections 30-33 of the Mental Capacity Act will need to be put in place (e.g. NHS SREC review). If you are using alternative formats to provide information and /or record consent (e.g. images, video or audio recording), provide brief details and outline the justification for this approach and the uses to which it will be put.

No consent is required as this is an analysis of data that is already collected

Please upload copies of the consent forms and participant information sheets. Please note you can upload videos and images.

Provide a detailed description of what the participants will be asked to do for the research study, including details about the process of data collection (e.g. completing how many interviews, assessments, when, for how long, and with whom).

Not Applicable

Upload any relevant documentation

## Secondary Data

Describe the source of the data and any supplier terms

Data will be given by Peters Web after they have asked website owners. The privacy policy of Peters Web says that they collect the IP addresses and other technical information to analyse trends in data.

## Security Sensitive Research

Do you require access to material that is prohibited/restricted (e.g. under Government security classifications or the Official Secrets Act)?

You can access the Government Security Classifications here: [Government Security Classifications](#)

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No

Does your research project relate to extremism, radicalisation and or terrorism?

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No

Does your research project activities involve accessing extremist, radical, or terrorist materials?

☐ Yes

☒ No

## Data Management

Describe the arrangements for anonymising data, and if this is not appropriate explain why

The IP addresses can not be anonymised as they are used by the analysis software to determine how much of a risk the IP address poses to the website

Describe the arrangements for the storage of any data:

The data will be stored on servers owned by Peter's Web, when the data needs to be analysed for a study, the data will be downloaded off the server for the website that has consented to take part. After the data is analysed, the data will be deleted off the computers that are being used to analyse the data. The the data left on the server will be deleted when the website owner choses to delete the data.

I confirm that I will comply with the University's Research Data Management Policy and data retention schedule and guidance:

☒ Yes

Will this research project involve data processing of identifiable high risk special category data?

High risk special category data includes:

- i. Racial or ethnic origin.
- ii. Political opinions.
- iii. Religious and philosophical beliefs.
- iv. Trade union membership.
- v. Genetic data.
- vi. Biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person.
- vii. Data concerning health.
- viii. Sex life and sexual orientation.

☐ Yes

☒ No

## Project Duration

Proposed start date of research activity

01/11/2022

Proposed end date of research activity

01/06/2023

## Health and Safety

I confirm that I have read, understood and agree to abide by the [University's Health and Safety Policy](#) and arrangements.

☒ Yes

I confirm that I have read and understood the University's requirements for the mandatory completion of risk assessments in advance of any activity involving potential health and safety risks that are not covered in general University risk assessments. The requirements can be found in the [University Risk Assessment Guidance](#).

☒ Yes

Please confirm that

- ☐ There are health and safety risks associated with the research project work that are not covered by the general University risk assessments. The correct risk assessment(s) have been attached and are appropriately approved.
- ☒ I can confirm that there are no health and safety risks associated with this project, not covered by general University risk assessments and so no project specific risk assessments are required.

## Additional Documents

Please upload any additional documents.

## Insurance

Click here for [University Insurance Questionnaire](#)

- ☒ I confirm I have completed and uploaded the University Insurance Questionnaire and that my research project is covered by University Insurance.

If you think your activity may involve a High Risk rating or are unsure how to answer the statements – contact [fi.insurance@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:fi.insurance@northumbria.ac.uk) for advice, attaching a copy of your research project ethics submission and the University Insurance Questionnaire.

Further information can be accessed [here](#).

I confirm my insurance risk level of:

- ☒ Low
- ☐ Medium
- ☐ High

## Declaration

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I confirm that I have answered all of the sections as fully and accurately as possible.

Once you have signed the form it will automatically be checked for compliance with ethical and governance policies at Northumbria before being allocated for ethical review.

If you are a student once your supervisor has signed the signature request your form will be automatically submitted.

Supervisor Signature

Applicant Signature