

Undergraduate and PGT Application

START HERE - Basic Information

This form must be completed for all student projects.

Before you proceed

Some activities inherently involve increased risks or approval by external regulatory bodies, so a proportional ethics review is not recommended and a full ethical review may be required.

These may include:

- i. Approval from an external regulatory body (including, but not limited to: NHS (HRA), HMPPS etc.);
- ii. Misleading participants;
- iii. Research without the participants' consent;
- iv. Clinical procedures with participants;
- v. The ingestion or administration of any substance to participants by any means of delivery;
- vi. The use of novel techniques, even where apparently non-invasive, whose safety may be open to question;
- vii. The use of ionising radiation or exposure to radioactive materials;
- viii. Engaging in, witnessing, or monitoring criminal activity;
- ix. Engaging with, or accessing terrorism related materials;
- x. A requirement for security clearance to access participants, data or materials;
- xi. Physical or psychological risk to the participants or researcher;
- xii. The project activity takes place in a country outside of the UK for which there is currently an active travel warning issued by the authorities (see info button);
- xiii. Animals, animal tissue, new or existing human tissue, or biological toxins and agents.

If any of these activities are fundamental to your project, please contact your supervisor to determine if a full application is required.

This form must be completed for each research project which you undertake at the University. It must be approved by your supervisor (where relevant) PRIOR to the start of any data collection.

In completing this form, please consult the University's [ACADEMIC ETHICAL FRAMEWORK](#) for ethical research.

A1 Please confirm that you will abide by the University's Academic Ethical Framework in relation to this project.

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

A2 Are you submitting this application as a learning experience, for a unit which already has ethical approval? (please confirm with your supervisor)

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

A3 Student details

Title	First Name	Surname
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Pritam"/>	<input type="text" value="Sangani"/>
Email	<input type="text" value="pritam.sangani@stu.mmu.ac.uk"/>	

A4 Supervisor

Title	First Name	Surname
<input type="text" value="Dr"/>	<input type="text" value="James"/>	<input type="text" value="O'Shea"/>
Faculty	<input type="text" value="Science and Engineering"/>	
Telephone	<input type="text" value="0161 247 1546"/>	
Email	<input type="text" value="j.d.oshea@mmu.ac.uk"/>	

A5 Which Faculty is responsible for the project?

Science and Engineering

A6 Course title

A7 Project title

A8 What is the proposed start date of your project?

A9 When do you expect to complete your project?

A10 Please describe the overall aims of your project (3-4 sentences). Research questions should also be included here.

This project has two aims. The first aim is to "Integrate Long-Term Memory mechanism into the ELIZA chatterbot core." The second aim is to "Evaluate how convincing the long-term memory mechanism is, by way of research methods determined by research done in the literature review." I also have a research question that I aim to answer. This is "Is it possible to implement convincing long-term memory into an existing chatterbot, such as Weizenbaum's ELIZA?"

A11 Please describe the research activity

I will start my project by completing a short literature review by reading research papers and articles on the topic of Natural Language Processing and Named Entity Recognition, which are the topics my project is based upon. I will obtain these from the internet and textbooks. At the same time, I will also find open-source code for the ELIZA chatterbot and start looking through the code to gain an understanding of how the software works. I will obtain the code from GitHub, a cloud-based storage service for code repositories. I will then research and compare the different tools available for implementing Named Entity Recognition. Once this is done, I will begin planning for the implementation stage, by designing an overview of the software and creating a plan of features that need to be implemented, thus breaking down the implementation into small tasks. During the implementation stage, I have decided to incrementally test the software, where appropriate, by conversing with the chatterbot - I will personally be doing the testing. Once the implementation stage is complete, I will be carrying out a final testing of the software to make sure it is ready to be evaluated by participants - again I will personally be doing the testing. Once testing is complete, I will be ready to ask participants to evaluate the quality of the chatterbot by having them converse with the chatterbot. I will be keeping a log of the conversation history for each participant, which I will analyse once the study is complete. I will also ask the participants to fill out a questionnaire to get their responses and feelings about the quality of the chatterbot. I will subjectively analyse the questionnaires and then write up my findings in a report.

A12 Please provide details of the participants you intend to involve (please include information relating to the number involved and their demographics; the inclusion and exclusion criteria)

I will try and involve a minimum of 5 participants to a maximum of 15. The participants will all be students and I will try and have a mixed demographic of participants. (a mix of gender and race)

Project Activity

B1 Are there any Health and Safety risks to the researcher and/or participants?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

B2 Please select any of the following which apply to your project

- ☒ Aspects involving human participants (including, but not limited to interviews, questionnaires, images, artefacts and social media data)
☐ Aspects that the researcher or participants could find embarrassing or emotionally upsetting
☐ Aspects that include culturally sensitive issues (e.g. age, gender, ethnicity etc.)
☐ Aspects involving vulnerable groups (e.g. prisoners, pregnant women, children, elderly or disabled people, people experiencing mental health problems, victims of crime etc.), but does not require special approval from external bodies (NHS, security clearance, etc.)
☐ Project activity which will take place in a country outside of the UK
☐ None of the above

B2.4 Is this project being undertaken as part of a larger research study for which a Manchester Metropolitan application for ethical approval has already been granted or submitted?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

Informed Participation/Consent

C1 Will participants be given accessible information about:

- a) the general purpose of the project
- b) what is expected from them in the project
- c) their right to refuse or withdraw at any time
- d) how their data will be used and managed, and their relevant legal rights

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

C1.2 Please describe how you will do this

I will give the participants all information regarding the project and what is expected of them in written form (probably a leaflet). I will also outline how they can withdraw from the project at any time, as well as how their conversation logs will be used and kept strictly private.

C2 Will you ask for informed consent from all participants?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

C3 Will any participants be legally unable to consent, and require you to obtain informed consent from a legal representative?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No
☐ Not Applicable

C3.1 Please give details why this will not be necessary or relevant

Study will only involve day-to-day conversation and will not involve any information which is confidential or requires any legal consent from authorities.

C4 Will participants have an opportunity to ask questions prior to agreeing to participate?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

C4.1 Please describe how participants will be able to ask questions prior to agreeing to participant

I will provide possible participants with my student email which they can use if they have any questions to ask.

C5 Will participants receive any payments, reimbursements of expenses or any other benefits or expenses for taking part in this project?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

C6 Have relevant authorities (gatekeepers) given their permission for project activities to take place on their premises (e.g. shop managers, service managers, head teachers, classroom lecturers)?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☒ Not Applicable

C7 Could your past or present relationship with the potential participants give rise to a perceived pressure to participate?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

C9 Will any participants be identified through posters, leaflets, adverts, social media or websites?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

Anonymity and Confidentiality

D1 Please describe how you will protect participants anonymity

I will remove all identifying data, such as name, from the conversation logs and also I will inform the participants that they should not enter any personal information when conversing with the chatterbot.

D2 Please describe how you will ensure that individuals cannot be identified indirectly (e.g. via other information that is collected)?

No personal details will be collected before, during or after the study

D3 Please describe how you will protect participants confidentiality?

Conversation logs will be cleared of any identifying details before being written up in the report.

Debriefing

E1 Will participants have the opportunity to obtain feedback or the results after the project has ended?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

Data

F1 How and where will data and documentation be stored?

Data will be collected in the form of conversation logs and will be kept on university servers which are protected by security that the university employs

F2 Will you be collecting personal data or sensitive personal data as part of this project?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

Additional Information

G1 Do you have any additional information or comments which have not been covered in this form?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

G2 Do you have any additional documentation which you want to upload?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

G2.1 Please attach a copy of any other materials relevant to this application

Type	Name	File Name	Date	Version	Size
Additional Documentation	Risk Assessment	RA_Project_SoftwareDevelopment_270918.pdf	18/10/2018 12:00:00 AM	1	369.0 KB

Signatures

H1 I confirm that all information in this application is accurate and true. I will not start this project until I have received Ethical Approval.

- ☒ I confirm
☐ I do not confirm

H2 Please notify your supervisor that this application is complete and ready to be submitted by clicking "Request" below. Do not begin your project until you have received confirmation from your supervisor - it is your responsibility to ensure that they do this.

Signed: This form was signed by Jim O'Shea (J.D.Oshea@mmu.ac.uk) on 19/10/2018 11:04

H3 By signing this application you are confirming that all details included in the form have been completed accurately and truthfully.

Signed: This form was signed by Pritam Sangani (pritam.sangani@stu.mmu.ac.uk) on 18/10/2018 15:02