School of Computing
RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

APPLICATION FORM FOR ETHICAL REVIEW OF A RESEARCH PROJECT INVOLVING HUMAN PARTICIPANTS WHICH IS IN THE CATEGORY OF NOTIFICATION ONLY

There are 3 generally accepted levels of ethical review for projects carried out in a University or similar setting. These are notification only, expediated and full committee.

This notification only level of review is to approve relatively low-risk research involving human participants, primarily using social science methodologies in which any personal information collected is not of a sensitive nature. The School of Computing Research Ethics Committee has been delegated responsibility by the University to approve ethics submissions from undergraduate and taught Masters projects only, which are in the category of notification only.

Examples of projects in this category include:

- Anonymous surveys in which the topic itself is not likely to elicit significant difficulties for the participants, such as: anonymous internet surveys (e.g. Survey Monkey), street questioning.
- Observation (without audio or visual recording) of public settings where privacy would not normally be expected, such as observing people on streets or at sports events.
- Research carrying no risks beyond those of everyday life (as experienced by the intended participant population), such as asking people's opinions about products or services; asking students about educational experiences; monitoring the impact of daily activities.
- Interviews with public figures, professionals or others in their professional capacity regarding their professional activities.
- Analysis of data (e.g. health records) which have had all identifying information removed by the data holder and been provided to the researcher in accordance with data protection legislation.
- Collection of biological samples which are anonymised and do not require invasive techniques (e.g. hair, nails).

If your project is using data from a public repository like Kaggle or is not generating or using any form of personal data then you do not need research ethics approval, you do not need to complete and to submit this form and your project supervisor should indicate this on the project dashboard.

If your project involves collecting or processing personal data which is of a personal nature, you must first complete the DCU online Data Protection training course and review the "Data Protection – Key Points for DCU Researchers" guidance from the Data Protection Unit to assist you in meeting your legal obligations under GDPR and associated Irish law.

Once you have completed this form (if you need to) you should save it as a PDF file, not WORD, and upload it to the your project dashboard before you start gathering data. It will then be read and assessed by two members of the committee and once two members of the committee approve your submission you will be automatically notified by email and your project can start data gathering.

There are strict deadlines for submitting this form for each class group, undergraduate and taught Masters by which your submission must be made and you will be informed of these deadlines by your course board chair or project co-ordinator. If you do not submit by these deadlines then the research ethics committee is not obliged to approve your submission and when that happens and your project is assessed and graded at the end of the year, you will be awarded 0 for that component of your project.

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SECTION 1 – GENERAL DETAILS

1.1 Project Title

GradNav

1.2 Applicant Details

Name	Student or Supervisor	E-mail
Martins Ejike	Student	Chukwuemeka.ejike2@mail.dcu.ie
Stephanie Ulogwara	Student	Stephanie.ulogwara2@mail.dcu.ie
Jennifer Foster	Supervisor	Jennifer.foster@dcu.ie

Other Investigators: *Including any external to DCU*

Name	School/Unit/External Institution	E-mail

1.3 Key Project Dates

Proposed start date for data collection	Proposed end date for data collection	Proposed project completion date
25/10/2023	1/11/2023	08/05/2023

1.4 Please indicate which academic award

Undergraduate ☒	Taught Masters ☐

1.5 Please confirm the location(s) where the research will be carried out

If research will be carried out abroad, you will need to address the ethical challenges raised by this in Section 3 of your application - consult the Conducting Research Abroad document in the Ethics Resources and Guidelines section of the [DCU Research Ethics webpage](#)).

St. Columbus College – Kilmashogue Ln, Whitechurch, Dublin 16, D16 CH92 Colaiste Pobail Setanta – Hansfield, Dublin 15, D15 EY17
St Aidans CBS – Collins Ave, Whitehall, Dublin
Dominican College Drumcondra - 204 Griffith Ave, Drumcondra, Dublin 9, D09 A5X0

1.6 Please state what additional permissions may be required to access participants. *Specify from whom the permission is required (e.g. a school Board of Management), and when their written approval will be obtained*

Principal permissions
Parental or Guardians consent

SECTION 2 – PROJECT DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

Research Overview - Please respect the indicated word counts in the following sections and explain all acronyms in full text the first time they appear.

2.1 Provide a brief description of the research (max 250 words):

Please use lay language, include the scientific/theoretical background of study and a justification as to why this research project should proceed in that context

Research Description:

Our research project aims to create a Student Career Exploration Web App designed for secondary school students. This app will serve as a user-friendly platform for students to explore various career options, assess their skills, access educational information, and stay informed about job market trends.

Scientific/Theoretical Background:

Career decision-making in secondary school is a critical phase that significantly influences a person's future. It involves complex cognitive processes related to self-awareness, information processing, and goal setting. This decision-making process has been extensively studied in the fields of developmental psychology and career counselling (Gati et al., 2019).

Recent advances in technology have created opportunities to leverage digital tools to enhance career exploration and decision-making. However, there remains a gap in providing a comprehensive, personalized, and accessible solution for secondary school students.

Justification:

This research project is vital because it addresses a pressing need in education and career development. Secondary school students face considerable uncertainty and stress when choosing their career paths. By creating an innovative, data-driven web app, we can empower students to make informed choices, reducing anxiety and increasing their chances of pursuing fulfilling careers. The integration of technology in career exploration aligns with the evolving educational landscape and provides an efficient way to support students' academic and career development. By proceeding with this research, we can positively impact the lives of countless students, ensuring they have the resources and guidance necessary to thrive in their chosen fields.

2.2 Please state the aims and objectives of the project (max 200 words)

The aim of our project is to create a virtual app to help students navigate possible career paths. The app is designed to cater for secondary school students.

The aim is to have a user-friendly platform for students to explore various career options, assess their skills, access educational information, and stay informed about job market trends. In doing this we hope to make the career making process easier for students and to help them avoid making choices they may come to regret.

2.3 Please confirm your methods of data collection:

Tick all relevant check boxes and provide details for each one, including any devices used to collect data, and whether the data will be anonymous, potentially identifiable or identifiable <u>at point of collection</u>

Method	Describe briefly
☒ Interviews or focus groups	One-on-one with siblings (and their friend groups) in 2nd level institutions.
☒ Surveys/questionnaires	Survey sent out to DCU neighbouring schools i.e., St Aidan's & Dominicans Drumcondra to be filled in with guardian over 18
☐ Audio/video recordings	
☐ Public observations	
☐ Persons in public office	
☒ Using existing data (incl. secondary data)	Data found on CAO.ie and Gov.ie
☐ Using human derived material (biological samples)	
☒ Standard tests (educational/personality etc.)	Available online aptitude testing
☐ Standard educational practices	
☐ Other (please specify)	

2.4 Please confirm who the participants on this study will be, including group size and composition:

Include associated demographic characteristics, and state how your proposed sample size was determined (e.g. power analysis)

The study will involve secondary school students from Ireland, specifically 5th-year, Transition Year, and 6th-year students attending four selected schools: St. Columbus, Colaiste Pobail Setanta, St Aidans CBS, and Dominican College Drumcondra. We aim to include about 150 students from each year group and approximately 40 Transition Year students from each of these schools.

We figured out how many students would be in our study by thinking about a few things. We considered how many students might be interested in taking part, how important it is to have enough data for our analysis, and the idea that our study should represent students from many different places, backgrounds, and school grades.
We want our study to include students who are different from each other in terms of things like their age, gender, where they come from, and how much money their families have. This way, we can make sure our app works for a lot of different students.

2.5 Please outline your recruitment process, including where you are sourcing participants from and your criteria for inclusion/exclusion:
Where gatekeepers are involved, outline the procedures relating to their involvement

Recruiting Irish 2nd Level students through emails sent out by their guidance counsellors containing a Google Docs form/survey to fill out with a guardian over 18.

Recruiting Irish 2nd Level students through conversations had with close/familial relations who are currently in/approaching the Senior Cycle.

2.6 Addressing participant vulnerability – if your participants fall into any of the following categories, please check the relevant tick box/boxes and state below what special arrangements will be made to protect them:
If your participants are not in any of these categories, tick N/A

☐ N/A
☐ Children under 18 years of age
☒ Persons in unequal relationships with the researcher *(e.g. lecturer-student, therapist-client, employer-employee)*
☐ People with a recognised or diagnosed intellectual, physical or mental impairment
☐ People confined to institutions *(e.g. prisoners, residents in 24 hr nursing facilities)*
☐ People who have undergone traumatic or adverse emotional events
☐ People with diminished cognitive ability
☒ Marginalised sections of society
☐ Other (please specify)
Special arrangements: *The participants will be under 18 but will fill out the survey in the presence of a guardian or teacher*

2.7 Involvement of children under 18 years of age – if your participants are in this category, please confirm compliance with the following:
If your participants are not in this category, tick N/A

☐ N/A
☒ We confirm that we have read and agree to act in accordance with the DCU Child Protection policy and procedures (*as per the [DCU Child Protection Unit webpage](#)*)
☒ 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)

☒ We confirm that all requirements will be met prior to commencing the research *(e.g. TUSLA Children First Training completed, Garda Vetting in place)*

2.8 Please confirm how the results of the research will be disseminated:
Include a statement on whether the participants will be provided with any information as to the findings or outcomes of the project

It will be distributed throughout the web app, helping us to determine, the needs that we have not considered as well as the features that the students would want on the app.

The participants will not be provided with any information as to the findings or outcomes of the project. However, an email will be sent out to the participating guidance counsellors to show the students containing a demo of our webapp with a feedback form made available.

SECTION 3 – ETHICAL ISSUES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

3.1 Please identify all issues including ethical issues which may arise in the course of this research. What are the potential risks to participants, and how will those risks be addressed or minimised?

Potential risks can be physical, psychological, social, legal, etc. Please include details of any additional support being provided for participants during/after the study

Informed Consent:
- Issue: Ensuring understanding and voluntary participation.
- Risk Mitigation: Use clear and simple language in consent forms, require parental guidance for minors, and allow withdrawal without consequences.

Bias and Fairness:
- Issue: Unintended bias in recommendation algorithms.
- Risk Mitigation: Regularly audit algorithms for bias, ensure diversity in recommendations, and maintain transparency.

Educational Institutions' Involvement:
- Issue: Data sharing and access concerns.
- Risk Mitigation: Establish clear agreements, anonymize data shared with schools, and protect individual privacy.

3.2 Please identify the potential benefits (direct and/or indirect) to those participating in this research:

Potential benefits should outweigh the potential risks to participants

Student: Clarity about suitable career paths, personalized education recommendations, confidence in future choices. Access to personalized advice on high-achiever career options. Help picking challenging and rewarding career paths. Finding out about uncommon, exciting career paths. Access to a wide range of career and education options Recommendations for dual-degree courses and universities that encourage exploration. Confidence in making informed decisions.

Parent: Confidence in supporting their child's career and education journey Peace of mind knowing their child's choices are well-informed. Assurance knowing that their kids are less likely to drop out of chosen programmes/courses and so money is not wasted.

Guidance Counsellors: Access to a comprehensive career guidance platform. Real-time updates on educational and career resources. Tools for tracking and assessing student progress.

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3.3 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 research:

Feedback Loops: We will be monitoring our emails for guidance councillors to report problems or concerns within the survey. This feedback loop enables us to address issues as they arise.

Adaptive Development: If unexpected issues arise, we are prepared to make rapid updates or changes to address the individual student.

Communication: We will monitor emails to inform guidance councillors about any unforeseen issues and the steps we are taking to resolve them. Transparency is our priority.

Continuous Improvement: We are committed to continuous improvement based on feedback and experience, ensuring that the survey is effective.

3.4 Do you intend to provide payment or incentives to participants?

Yes ☐	No ☒

If Yes, please consult the REC Guidelines on the Use of Compensation and Incentives (in the Ethics Resources and Guidelines section of the <u>DCU Research Ethics webpage)</u> *before providing additional details below*

3.5 Does this research raise any potential risks for the researchers themselves?
Please consider the location/environment where the research is being conducted, exposure to distressing data content etc.

Yes ☐	No ☒

If Yes, please describe further and explain what risk management procedures will be put in place to minimise these risks to researchers:

3.6 Does this research raise any potential conflict of interest?
Please consider any potential real <u>or</u> perceived conflicts of interest that might influence the integrity of the research, or give rise to bias in conducting and reporting the research, or affecting publication (consult the <u>DCU Conflict of Interest Policy</u> for assistance)

Yes ☐	No ☒

If Yes, please identify and explain the steps being taken to address that conflict:

3.7 Please describe how the conduct of the research will be monitored:
Regular oversight by the PI is required to ensure the project conforms to the procedures set out in this application (especially where several people are involved in carrying out the research procedures)

Via email and google forms

SECTION 4 – CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA MANAGEMENT

4.1 Considering your previous response in section 2.3 of the form on data collection, please confirm whether you are collecting or processing personal data in this research project:
Personal data is any information about a living person, where that person is either identified, or could be identified from the data itself, or when it is combined with other data. This includes paper based, electronic and biological samples data. If your data is fully and completely anonymous, it is not personal data.

Yes ☒	No ☐

If Yes, please confirm your compliance with the following by ticking the checkboxes:

☒ We confirm that we have completed the DCU Data Protection training module on Loop.
☒ We confirm that we have read the "Data Protection – Key Points for DCU Researchers" guidance on the DCU Data Protection Unit (DPU) website and agree to protect and manage our data in accordance with same.
☒ We have assessed the degree of risk inherent in the personal data being used in the research project, and confirm that all DPU GDPR requirements have been met prior to submitting this application *(e.g. completion of Data Protection questionnaire, confirmation that any survey tool being used is GDPR compliant, that required Data Processing or Sharing Agreements will be in place, etc.)*

4.2 Data access – please confirm whether access to participant data is confined to the investigators named on this application:

Yes ☒	No ☐

If No, please name who the other individuals are and why they need access. Any proposed transfer of data (including outside of the EU) should be detailed here.

4.3 Data storage – please confirm compliance with the following:

☒ Data collected on mobile devices will be protected with a strong password/passphrase at a minimum, and/or encrypted if the device supports it
☒ Data will be removed from mobile devices as soon as is practicable and stored in a secured location in DCU (on server or institutional Google Drive)
☒ Paper based data will be held securely in locked cabinets in DCU, with access restricted to the named researchers
Specific arrangements in relation to biological samples should be stated here:

> *Any exemptions to the above compliance statements should be justified here:*

4.4 Please confirm who will be responsible for the secure storage of data generated by the research:
Name the relevant DCU investigator/s

Chukwuemeka Martins Ejike
Stephanie Ulogwara

4.5 Please confirm how long the data will be held for:
For personal data, consult section 15: Retention of Personal Data in the "Data Protection – Key Points for DCU Researchers" guidance on the DCU Data Protection Unit (DPU) website

14 Days

4.6 Please confirm what will happen to the data collected at the end of the study:
Please tick the relevant checkbox and complete the associated follow-up section for that category

Archived ☐	Destroyed ☒	Other ☐

4.6.1 Archived data
Please provide the following details:

Name the DCU staff member responsible for archival and future use of data	
Confirm whether the data will be made available to other researchers, and if so, how?	
Confirm how the data will be prepared for archive (e.g. will datasets be anonymised)	
Confirm where the data will be archived and who will be allowed to access it	

4.6.2 Destroyed data

Please provide the following details – Note: for student projects, the supervisor must take responsibility for data destruction if there is no guarantee the student will have access to the data at the time of destruction

Please justify why the data will be destroyed	*No longer necessary or relevant*
Name the DCU researcher responsible for destruction of data	Chukwuemeka Martins Ejike Stephanie Ulogwara
Confirm when the data will be destroyed (specify date)	*15/11/2023*
Confirm compliance with the following destruction methods (tick relevant boxes)	☒ Electronic data will be overwritten/securely deleted ☐ Paper based data will be confidentially shredded ☐ Medical samples will be disposed in accordance with the relevant DCU approved SOP

4.6.2 Other - Please explain what will happen to the data if not being archived or destroyed:

N/A

SECTION 5 – PARTICIPANT INFORMATION AND INFORMED CONSENT PROCEDURES

In addition to completing this form you are required to attach, within the single PDF that you submit, a copy of (1) the Participation Information Sheet which you share with your participants and (2) a copy of the Informed Consent Form which your participants sign.

5.1 Please confirm that the following items have been addressed in your Participant Information Sheet which should be shared with all participants whether it involves online or in-person data gathering:

The items below should be used as headings in your information sheet. Note the language used under each item must reflect the participant age group and corresponding comprehension level– if your participants have different comprehension levels (e.g. both adult and child participants) then separate sheets must be prepared for each set. Templates are available via the REC Forms - Applications, Templates and Amendments section of the Research Ethics website.

Checklist – tick the relevant check box for each item	Yes	No
Introductory Statement (Researcher names and titles, school, title of the research study)	☒	☐
What is this research about?	☒	☐
Why is this research being conducted?	☒	☐
Why have you been invited to take part?	☒	☐
What will happen if you decide to take part in this research study?	☒	☐
How will your data be used?	☒	☐
How will your privacy be protected (including any legal limits to confidentiality)?	☒	☐
What are the benefits of taking part in this research study?	☒	☐
What are the risks of taking part in this research study?	☒	☐
Can you change your mind at any stage and withdraw from this study?	☒	☐
How will you find out what happens with this project?	☒	☐
Contact details for further information	☒	☐

If you marked any item as No, please explain and justify why:

| |
| |

5.2 Informed Consent Procedures – please confirm whether written consent is to be obtained:
Please tick the relevant checkbox

Yes ☒	No ☐

If Yes, describe the procedures by which written consent will be obtained. If you are involving child participants, you will also need to obtain their written assent. Templates are available via the REC Forms - Applications, Templates and Amendments section of the Research Ethics website.

An informed consent form will be given to the participate to complete before conducting any surveys.

If No, describe the procedures regarding how consent/assent will be obtained:

If you are gathering data from an online process such as Google Form or SurveyMonkey then you should use a page such as the one below, to capture participants' informed consent and your data gathering should not proceed until participants have completed this form with the appropriate answers.

Participant – please complete the following (by clicking Yes/No for each question)

I have read the Plain Language Statement (or had it read to me) *

- ⦿ Yes
- ◯ No

I understand the information provided *

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

I have had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss this study *

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

I understand the information provided in relation to data protection *

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

I have received satisfactory answers to all my questions *

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

I understand I may withdraw from the Research Study at any point *

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

I have read and understand the arrangements to be made to protect confidentiality of data, including that confidentiality of information provided is subject to legal limitations *

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

I have read and understand confirmations relating to any other relevant information as indicated in the PLS *

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

I consent to participate in this research study *

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

References

Gati, I., Levin, N., & Landman-Tal, S. (2019, January 1). *Decision-Making Models and Career Guidance*. Springer eBooks. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-25153-6_6

SECTION 6 – SUBMISSION CHECKLIST AND RESEARCHER DECLARATION

6.1 Please confirm all required supplementary documentation to be included in this application within Section 7:

Checklist – tick the relevant check box for each item	Yes	N/A
Participant Information Sheet/s	☒	
Informed Consent Form/s	☒	☐
Informed Assent Form/s	☐	☒
Recruitment Advertisement	☐	☒
Questionnaire/Survey	☒	☐

Interview/Focus Group Questions	☐	☒
Debriefing Material	☐	☒
Bibliography	☐	☒
Approval from another Research Ethics Committee	☐	☒
Evidence of other external approvals (e.g. Board of Management letter)	☐	☒
Evidence of internal approvals (e.g. BSC approval review letter)	☐	☒
Other – provide details here:	☐	☒

6.2 Signed Declaration

By submitting this form, the applicant (and supervisor) agree to the following:

The information contained herein is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, accurate. I have read the University's current research ethics guidelines, and accept responsibility for the conduct of the procedures set out in the attached application in accordance with the form guidelines, the REC guidance and resources, the University's Conflict of Interest Policy, its Code of Good Research Practice and any other condition laid down by the Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee. I have attempted to identify all risks related to the research that may arise in conducting this research and acknowledge my obligations and the rights of the participants.

I also acknowledge my requirement to be informed as to other duties and legal obligations applying to my research, and to comply with these duties and obligations – this includes being informed about DCU Data Protection guidelines for researchers, DCU Child Protection policy and procedures (where relevant) and DCU Insurance requirements.

I and my co-investigators and/or supporting staff have the appropriate qualifications, experience and facilities to conduct the research set out in the attached application and to deal with any emergencies and contingencies related to the research that may arise. Research will not commence until required consents and approvals are in place.

Electronic Signature(s): s):

Supervisor: _____

Jennifer Foster

*Print Name here:*_____

·19/10/2023
Date: _____

*Student(s) signature(s):*_____

*Print Name(s) here:*___Stephanie Ulogwara_____Martins Ejike_____

Date: 19/10/2023

SECTION 7 – SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTATION

Informed Consent Form

DCU Research Ethics Committee
Participant Information Sheet

Introductory Statement

Martins Ejike - Student Stephanie
Ulogwara – Student
Jennifer Foster - Supervisor

All from DCU school of Computing

Title Of Research Study – GradNav

What is this research about?

Our research project aims to create a Student Career Exploration Web App designed for secondary school students. This app will serve as a user-friendly platform for students to explore various career options, assess their skills, access educational information, and stay informed about job market trends.

NOTE*
Our Student Career Exploration Web App be a prototype and students participating should not depend on the output for their career choices.

Why is this research being conducted?

This research project is vital because it addresses a pressing need in education and career development. Secondary school students face considerable uncertainty and stress when choosing their career paths. By creating an innovative, data-driven web app, we can empower students to make informed choices, reducing anxiety and increasing their chances of pursuing fulfilling careers.

Why have you been invited to take part?

You have been invited to take part because we value your insights and experiences as a secondary school student, and your input is essential to the development and improvement of our Student Career Guidance Web App.

It's important to note that your participation in this study will not impact your ongoing assessment, grades, or school management. This research is entirely separate from your academic performance and will not have any bearing on your school-related matters.

What will happen if you decide to take part in this research study?

If you choose to participate in our research study for the development of our Student Career Exploration Web App, you'll be invited to take an online survey approximately 5 - 10 minutes based on general questions. Your valuable input will help us refine and enhance the app to better serve the needs of secondary school students, and your involvement will not impact your ongoing assessments or grades.

How will your data be used?

The data collected during this research will be processed and managed in accordance with the guidelines provided in our REC application form and the requirements set by the Data Protection Unit at DCU. The data controllers for this research is [Martins Ejike and Stephanie Ulogwara], and any data processing related to this study will be managed by [Martins Ejike and Stephanie Ulogwara]. The DCU Data Protection Officer, Mr. Martin Ward, can be contacted at data.protection@dcu.ie or via phone at 7005118 / 7008257 for addressing any data protection concerns arising from this research.

The data will be processed for the purpose of improving the Student Career Exploration Web App and its features, as detailed in Section 4 of our REC application. The categories of personal data to be processed include survey responses. This data will be stored securely and destroyed after it is processed.

While personal data will be anonymized to ensure privacy, no personal information will be shared with third parties or external parties. The data will be retained for the duration of the research study, and participants have the right to access their personal data or lodge a complaint concerning its use with the Irish Data Protection Commission.

The data will not be used for future studies beyond the scope of this research project. If, in the future, there is an intention to use this data for additional research, the parameters of such usage will be communicated to participants, and their consent will be sought accordingly.

How will your privacy be protected (including any legal limits to confidentiality)?

Your privacy in this survey is very important to us. We're taking steps to protect your information, like keeping it safe and using secure methods. Your responses in the survey will not include any personal information that can identify you. Your participation is voluntary, and it won't affect your grades or school assessments.

What are the benefits of taking part in this research study?

Clarity about suitable career paths, personalized education recommendations, confidence in future choices. Access to personalized advice on high-achiever career options. Help picking challenging and rewarding career paths. Finding out about uncommon, exciting career paths. Access to a wide range of career and education options Recommendations for dual-degree courses and universities that encourage exploration. Confidence in making informed decisions.

What are the risks of taking part in this study?

There are no risks in taking part in this study as the data will be anonymised.

Can you change your mind at any stage and withdraw from this study?

Yes, your participation in this research is entirely voluntary, and you can change your mind and withdraw at any stage without any obligation. Your participation will end once you decide to withdraw your consent. Regarding your data, you can request the removal of your collected data at any time, up to the point of anonymization or publication. To withdraw your consent or request data removal, please contact us at 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 and we will assist you promptly. Your decision to participate or withdraw will have no impact on your ongoing assessments or academic grades.

How will you find out what happens with this project?

The participants will not be provided with any information as to the findings or outcomes of the project. However, an email will be sent out to the participating guidance counsellors to show the students containing a demo of our webapp with a feedback form made available.

Contact details for further information:
Martins Ejike – Chukwuemeka.ejike2@mail.dcu.ie
Stephanie Ulogwara – Stephanie.ulogwara2@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

Informed Consent Form

DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY
Informed Consent Form

Research Study Title
GradNav
School/Centre: Dublin City University
Principal Investigator: Silvana Mcmahon
Other Investigators: Martins Ejike, Stephanie Ulogwara, Jennifer Foser

Clarification of the purpose of the research

This research project is vital because it addresses a pressing need in education and career development. Secondary school students face considerable uncertainty and stress when choosing their career paths. By creating an innovative, data-driven web app, we can empower students to make informed choices, reducing anxiety and increasing their chances of pursuing fulfilling careers. All findings/results will be used to enhance our web application to help students make well-informed decisions on their careers. No personal information will be stored during the duration of this study.

Confirmation of particular requirements as highlighted in the Plain Language Statement

Requirements may include involvement in interviews, completion of questionnaires, audio/video-taping of events etc.. Getting the participant to acknowledge requirements is preferable, e.g.

<u>*Participant – please complete the following (Circle Yes or No for each question)*</u>
I have read the Plain Language Statement (or had it read to me)	*Yes/No*
I understand the information provided	*Yes/No*
I have had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss this study	*Yes/No I*
have received satisfactory answers to all my questions	*Yes/No*
I am aware that my interview will be audiotaped	*Yes/No*

Confirmation that involvement in the Research Study is voluntary.

I understand that the involvement in this research study is voluntary, and I am free to withdraw at any point

Yes/No

Confirmation of arrangements to be made to protect confidentiality of data, including that confidentiality of information provided is subject to legal limitations

I understand that arrangements will be made to protect the confidentiality of data I have provided subject to legal limitations

Yes/No

Confirmation of arrangements regarding archiving/destruction of data

I understand that arrangements will be made in regard to archiving and or the destruction of data that I have provided

Yes/No

Confirmations relating to any other relevant information as indicated in the Participant Information Sheet

I understand that the data that I have provided may be used for future studies within the following parameters that the information I provide now will be archived and I will be notified of any further use of the information for consent of it to be used.

Yes/No

<u>**Signature:**</u>

I have read and understood the information in this form. My questions and concerns have been answered by the researchers, and I have a copy of this consent form. Therefore, I consent to take part in this research project

Participants Signature:

_____

Name in Block Capitals: _____

Witness:_____

Date:

_____

<u>Survey Questions</u>

Survey Link
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSddxp0PycJYehslE4UbqGLO6hY9NC7KHaNm0pK2ZWC8d-3u9w/viewform?usp=sf_link