APPLICATION FOR Research Ethics Approval

Version 4 - FINAL – 27/01/15

All researchers should be familiar with the University’s Research Ethics Policy and associated procedures, available [here](https://sp.falmouth.ac.uk/sites/re/ethics/default.aspx). No element of a research project which falls under the scope of the Policy should begin before written approval has been given.

All research projects are subject to ethics approval. This form enables researchers to either:

1) declare a project out of scope. The form incorporates a short cut for this.

2) provide more detail on ethical considerations. Research ethics approval is required for research projects that:

* directly involve people in research activities, through their physical participation, eg. interviews, questionnaires, surveys, observational research, requiring the active or passive involvement of a person;
* indirectly involve people in the research activities, through their provision of or access to personal data and/or tissue
* involves people on behalf of others (eg. legal guardians of children and the psychologically or physically impaired and supervisors of people under controlled environments (eg. prisoners, school pupils).

There are special arrangements for research in the health and when it involves animals, and guidance should be sought direct from the Committee in these cases.

Convening an event, such as a conference or workshop, only requires research ethics approval where research takes place, eg. leading to an identifiable research output, and only that specific part of the event where the research is taking place.

Please note that all events (seminars, conference, workshops, etc) should be discussed with your Director of Department taking into consideration any professional ethics or reputational concerns.

IF YOU ARE UNSURE, YOU SHOULD ASSUME RESEARCH ETHICS APPLIES. IN THIS CASE SEEK GUIDANCE FROM THE COMMITTEE BEFORE CONTINUING.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Part A – Overview of the project | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Title of the project | Can the Environment be Used to Reliably Manipulate Players Moral Decisions Within Video Games? | | | | | |
| 2 | Briefly summarise the project’s aims, objectives and methodology | The aim of the project is to investigate the correlation between ones environment and the moral decisions they make. Hopefully diving deep into human phycology | | | | | |
| 3 | Start and end dates | October to May | | | | | |
| 4 | Principal Investigator | Title: Lord  Name: John Rock  Department: BSc Computing for Games | | | | | |
| 5 | Other key investigators | Title | Name | Post | Role in project | Organisation | Department |
| Dr | Michael Scott | Researcher | Supervisor | Falmouth University | BSc Computing for Games Course Coordinator and Senior Lecturer (Programming) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Part B – Does the project require research ethics approval? | | | | | | | |
| 6a | Does any part of the project constitute research, i.e. a process of investigation leading to new insights, effectively shared (eg. identifiable research output)?  If you answer No to this question please provide a rationale here (max 100 words) | **Yes**  If Yes or don’t know, continue to 6b. If No, the project is out of scope. Go direct to 18a. | | | | | |
| 6b | Does your research involve participants of any type, i.e. humans or animals, directly or indirectly? Review the questions in Part C as a guide | **Yes**  If Yes or don’t know, continue to Part C. If No, the project is out of scope. Go to direct to 18a. | | | | | |
| Part C – Details of the research | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Give a brief reflection/overview of the ethics issues in this project. | I will be recording personal user information which needs to be collected and stored following UK Data Protection Law as well as kept completely confidential. I will need to provide participants with enough information to give informed consent but not so much as to endanger the research such as acquiescence bias.  All user data I collect will need to be destroyed within a maximum of 2 years and stored in a appropriately secured location. | | | | | |
| 8 | Who will the participants be? Identify specifically any vulnerable groups or individuals and address any special measures you intend to take to accommodate them | It’s all based around a game environment so the people I select will obviously need to be okay with this so mostly young people but I need people from different walks of life so I can see how they differ morally. Participants will be students and staff from Falmouth University, both inside and outside of the Games Academy. I do not foresee any special measures that will be needed for this research. | | | | | |
| 9 | How will participants be recruited and how many will be involved? | I will be selecting participants from staff and students at Falmouth University that I know will help give me varying results. I used G\*Power to run a priori power analysis which gave me a sample size of 52. | | | | | |
| 10 | What will participants be asked to do? | The experiment will be an A|B test where participants will be split in to two groups and simply play the game through. There groups will be randomized and doubled blinded, even I won’t know which variant of the game players receive. Player’s moral decisions will be recorded as well as other in-game activities to help me monitor aggression levels that may also influence decision making. | | | | | |
| 11 | What potential risks to the interests of participants do you foresee and what steps will you take to minimise those risks? A participant’s interests include their physical and psychological well-being, their commercial interests; and their rights of privacy and reputation | *Potential Risks may include:*  *Health and safety; I will make sure all the equipment is safe to use before each user tests it out.*  *Data protection; will make sure only the essential data is taken from users and destroyed once safely come the end on research.*  *Ensure they are given breaks when and if they need them.* | | | | | |
| 12 | Will you be obtaining personal information from any of the participants? E.g. name, personal opinions, address, recorded images or audio, date of birth, notes and observations. | **Yes**  I will be collecting user information such as age, gender and religious beliefs. These will allow me to draw links between these variables and how effectively the experiment works. For example, a person’s religious beliefs may make them more likely to choose the forgive option in-game and not necessarily because of the environment around them.  **If you answer ‘Yes’, please give details. In your response, please consider:** I will be storing my information using Google Sheets & Forms which both use industry standard security and all abide to data protection laws. I will use this data to produce various charts and graphs which will help me to analyse the data and determine links between the environment and moral decisions. All information will be anonymous and therefore confidential. None of the data will be publicized and will be destroyed upon completely of the paper as required by Data Protection Law. | | | | | |
| 13 | What potential risks to yourself or other members of the research team do you foresee and what steps will you take to minimise those risks? Eg. does your research raise issues of personal safety for you or others involved in the project, especially if taking place outside working hours or off University premises | *I do not foresee any potential risks for myself or other members of the research team.* | | | | | |
| 14 | What potential risks to the environment do you foresee and what steps will you take to minimise those risks, eg. does your research involve plants or soil | *I do not foresee any risks to the environment* | | | | | |
| 15 | Will payments or in-kind contributions be made to participants? | **No**  *If YES, please state amount and whether payment is for out-of-pocket expenses, or a fee* | | | | | |
| 16 | If the project is to receive financial support (real or in-kind) from outside the University, please give details, including any restrictions that have been imposed upon the conduct of the research. Please discuss this with RIO. Financial propriety, protection of commercial rights and reputation are important for you, the University and other third parties (eg. sponsors, participants etc.) | ***No*** | | | | | |
| 17 | Will any restrictions be placed on the publication of results? | ***No***  *If YES, please state the nature of the restrictions, (eg. details of any confidentiality agreement)* | | | | | |
| 18a | Declaration of Principal Investigator if activity is out of scope | I confirm that the form is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief and it does not fall under the scope of the Research Ethics Policy.  Signature: John Rock  Date: 20/11/18 | | | | | |
| 18b | Declaration of Principal Investigator if activity is in scope | I confirm my responsibility to deliver the project in accordance with the University’s Research Ethics Policy and Guidelines on Good Research Practice and, where externally funded, with the terms and conditions of the research funder. In signing this form I am also confirming that:   1. The form is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. 2. There is no potential material interest that may, or may appear to, impair the independence and objectivity of researchers conducting this project. 3. I undertake to conduct the project as set out in the application unless deviation is agreed by the University and to comply with any conditions. 4. I agree to keep all ethics issues in the project under review and to re-submit a new application for ethics approval should any new issue arise or significant change occurs. 5. I understand and accept that the ethical propriety of this project may be monitored by the University. 6. I have included the following documents:   ✔An information sheet (compulsory)  ✔A consent form (compulsory)  ✔Copy of the full proposal/application (compulsory)  ✔Other relevant information  Signature: John Rock  Date: 20/11/18 | | | | | |
| 19 | Support from Director of Department | I have reviewed the project with the applicant and confirm it either does not fall under the scope of the Research Ethics Policy or I support it.  Full Name:  Signature:  Date: | | | | | |
| 20 | REC use only |  | | | | | |

# Consent Form

