



MONASH University

Assessment

Faculty of Information Technology

FIT5125

Research Methods for IT

Summer B 2025

Assignment 1

Value

This assignment is worth **40%** of the total marks for FIT5125

Assignment due date

Friday, 7 February 2025 at 4.30pm

Submission method


Submit to Moodle:


- Multiple files as specified in the description of each of the three tasks.

Assignment Criteria

Task A: Research Ethics	Task B: Questionnaires	Task C: Interviews
Weighting: 20 marks	Weighting: 20 marks	Weighting: 20 marks
See Page 3.	See Page 4.	See Page 5.

This is an individual assessment; it must be your own work and expressed in your own words.

 A marking guide is available on Moodle.

 There are specific requirements for file names on your submission (see the instructions for each task).

Assessment rules:

1. Note that plagiarism detection procedures may be applied to each submission. See the University rules and regulations regarding plagiarism and resulting penalties. Any case of plagiarism detected will mean automatic failure of the entire assignment. Note that even where Turnitin reports a high similarity score, this may simply be the result of text that is part of the original question or a correctly referenced quotation (such cases are not plagiarism).
2. Late submissions will incur a penalty of 5% per day, see:
<https://publicpolicydms.monash.edu/Monash/documents/1935752>
3. Submissions should follow the instructions for each task, described under "What to Submit".
4. Monash policy on Special Consideration is available at:
<https://www.monash.edu/exams/changes/special-consideration>
5. We aim to mark and return work within 15 working days of submission.

Task A

“Planning for ethical research”

Consider the following scenario:

You work for the product team of an Australia-based company that is developing a mobile phone intervention for teenagers (13-16 year old) with disordered eating; specifically teenagers with a clinical diagnosis of Anorexia Nervosa or Bulimia Nervosa. The intervention involves automatic monitoring of the teenagers' mobile social media and mobile communications application usage and an app that provides proactive advice and messaging in response to their patterns of use. Your job is to design a study to evaluate the teenagers' experiences of using the app, and the intervention's effectiveness, using (only) log data from the teenagers' mobile phones, voice recorded (daily) diary entries by the teenagers about their experiences of the app, and post-deployment interviews with the teenagers and their parents or carers. If successful the findings of the study will be used both in academic publications and in a campaign created by the company's marketing team to promote the product when it goes to market.

There are 4 stages in the research pipeline that you have been asked to focus on: (1) recruitment; (2) data collection; (3) data analysis; and (4) dissemination. It is standard practice in your company for a high-level research plan to be shared with colleagues to assess potential risks. You are tasked with creating a four-slide presentation. These slides should describe: (i) the potential ethical issues and (ii) the mitigation strategies for these ethical issues (that you would advise be put in place). You should use four slides to describe the two most significant ethical issues (that are distinct for this study) at each stage of the research pipeline (one slide for each stage).

What to Submit

1. A PDF document, named "STUDENT-ID-Assignment-1A.pdf", containing your slides.

How Much to Write

Following your company's communication policy, each slide should have a maximum of 200 words (including titles).

What to Know

- If you have any questions about the assignment, you should submit them as a public post to the Ed forum (under the sub-category "Assignments") so that all students have access to the question and CE or admin tutor's response.
- This is an individual exercise that forms part of the formal assessment for the unit, you must therefore work alone and follow Monash University's policies, procedures and regulations relating academic integrity, plagiarism and collusion (see Moodle).
- As this is a formal assessment tutors are not allowed support to directly, however, they can provide feedback on any studio activities (during the studio).
- The aim of this assessment is to evaluate your understanding of research ethics, your ability to research an application domain that you are not familiar with, and your ability to apply this understanding.

Task B

"Designing a student survey to evaluate student experiences of the Kinnu app"

Being able to design a survey to assess the beliefs, attitudes and experiences of users of technology is a key research skill that all IT professionals should have an understanding of. Consider the following scenario:

You work for the Teaching and Learning team at Monash University. Your team has been approached by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) to evaluate whether the University should engage Kinnu (<https://kinnu.xyz>) to provide mobile learning resources for the University. In a small scale trial, Kinnu created example content to support the FIT5125 Research Methods unit. Your goal is to design a questionnaire to help your team understand what FIT5125 students's experiences and views of the Kinnu app are. All students on the FIT5125 will be required to complete your questionnaire. Since the survey will be completed by students "in class" (under the direction of the academic leading the class) it mustn't be too long, so as not to disrupt the regular teaching and learning activities. You've therefore been asked to use Google Forms to implement the survey, using closed questions only, and to make it no longer than 20 questions. Since the purpose of the survey is to help your team make a decision about whether to engage Kinnu in developing content for other units, you are therefore not required to seek ethics approval from Monash University HREC. The form will be distributed to all students by email.

What to Submit

1. A PDF document, named "STUDENT-ID-Assignment-1B-survey.pdf", containing a "print" of your questionnaire (using the Google Forms "print" option).
2. A PDF document, named "STUDENT-ID-Assignment-1B-rationale.pdf", containing a link to your survey (on the first line) and a written description of no more than 500 words of the rationale for the design of your survey. Use the "Add collaborators" function (of Google Forms) to make the form accessible to "Anyone with the link" (as your marker will need to be able to access your Google Form).

How Much to Write

Do not use more than 500 words for the written description of the rationale for the design of your questionnaire.

What to Know

- If you have any questions about the assignment, you should submit them as a public post to the Ed forum (under the sub-category "Assignments") so that all students have access to the question and CE or admin tutor's response.
- This is an individual exercise that forms part of the formal assessment for the unit, you must therefore work alone and follow Monash University's policies, procedures and regulations relating academic integrity, plagiarism and collusion (see Moodle).
- As this is a formal assessment tutors are not allowed support to directly, however, they can provide feedback on any studio activities (during the studio).

Task C

"Planning and conducting a research interview"


This assessment task aims to evaluate your knowledge and skills related to planning and conducting research interviews. Knowing how to conduct a research interview is not only valuable for conducting qualitative research, but for the many interviews in other settings that you will be required to conduct in your career. The ability to plan and conduct a high-quality interview is an important skill that all IT professionals require.

Consider the following extension to the scenario described in Task A:

The National Union of Students (NUS) is the peak representative body for tertiary students in Australia. It advocates for the rights, welfare, and interests of students at a national level and works to amplify the collective voice of students in government and institutional decision-making processes. The NUS has decided to use Facebook to encourage students to engage with each other, and with staff, and to trial this approach for Monash University. To do this the NUS has contracted you to design a set of moderation guidelines for these groups, and before you do this you must interview students at Monash University about issues that might inform the design of these guidelines.

Your task has three parts:

1. You must create an interview schedule for a semi-structured interview with students attitudes and beliefs about issues that might inform the moderation guidelines.
2. You must recruit and interview a fellow student in English (from any unit, program or course at Monash University). Make sure that you record the interview, that you create an appropriate consent form, and that your interviewee signs the consent form before you interview them (you should not submit the signed form but keep it safe).
3. Manually transcribe the interview. Use a modified form of verbatim transcription in which you record everything that you and the interviewee say, except for non-verbal utterances (e.g., "ums and ahs", coughs, sneezes, etc.). That is, just transcribe the actual words that both you (as interviewer).

 Your interview must be at least 30 minutes long.

What to Submit

1. A PDF document containing your interview schedule named "STUDENTID-Task-A3-schedule.pdf"
2. A description, of no more than 500 words, of your rationale for the design of your interview schedule named "STUDENTID-Task-A3-rationale.pdf".
3. An MP3 or MP4 audio file of the recording of your interview named "STUDENTID-Task-A3-recording.mp3"
4. A PDF document containing your manual anonymised transcription of the interview schedule named "STUDENTID-Task-A3-transcription.pdf"
5. A PDF document of your consent form (unsigned and not identifying your interviewee) STUDENTID-Task-A3-consent-form.pdf

How Much to Write

The is **no word limit for your transcription or the consent form or for the interview schedule itself**, but there is a strict **500-word limit for the description of your rationale for the design of the interview schedule**.

What to Know

- If you have any questions about the assignment, you should submit them as a public post to the Ed forum (under the sub-category "Assignments") so that all students have access to the question and CE or admin tutor's response.
- This is an individual exercise that forms part of the formal assessment for the unit, you must therefore work alone and follow Monash University's policies, procedures and regulations relating academic integrity, plagiarism and collusion (see Moodle).
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