Ethical Considerations

This sections highlights the ethical consideration in design a system to enhance travel experiences for international students by encouraging more collaborative work and conversation. It covers ethical considerations from the research period to the design solution, and the responsibility the team would have to ensure the considerations are met.

# The current situation of our design:

First year international students often face challenges when travelling in a group setting. The most common problem was balancing and managing individual preferences, which could create tension, leading to frustration or conflict, or an overall unpleasant experience.

# Our design’s stakeholders are:

The core stakeholder (users): especially first year internation students. They come from different cultural and ethical background with different level of language competency.

Other stakeholders:

Travel destination management team: The destinations would have different ethical and culture context and environmental context that need to be respected.

# Our design intention is to:

For our core users, we would like to streamline their group travel experience by, suggesting activities and discussion topics, to encourage conversation among group members and collaboration in creating a pleasant travel experience, and eventually a relaxing and meaningful relationship bonding experience.

# Ethical considerations

## during our research:

### Cultural sensitivity:

Because our primary users will be of different cultural background, and they would have different cultural norms and communication style. We need to ensure our interactions with them with respect to their diverse background

### Informed consent:

We need to make sure that our participants fully understand what they are agreeing to in terms pf the purpose of the research, and are given full autonomy to their participation.

### Date privacy:

We need to protect each participants personal data, so they would feel safe in their involvement. This would build trust with our participants and prevent any unintended harm that might result from data misuse.

## for our design:

### System bias:

System bias might unintentionally favour one culture or practice over another, which could make the users feel disconnected from the experience, and certain activities or destinations might go underappreciated.

So our design should ensure all cultural experiences are equally highlighted, and provide a balance among a diverse range of cultures and experiences, so all users are included, and different cultures could be represented in a fair way.

### Geolocation privacy

Unauthorized location tracking could violate user privacy, as they might feel sur or unsafe, and data leakage could lead to some risky situation like stalking if being used by unauthorized person.

As a result, our design would be transparent about the users right to know and how their locations are being tracked, and get consent from users to foster trust.

### Social impact

The system encourage activities and interactions to a specific locations, which might cause damage to the local culture or the environment. It might also promote over-tourism and contribute to more carbon footprint.

Our design should take into consideration of the impact tourism industry might have to the environment and the hosting destinations, and promote more responsible travel activities.

# Our responsibility

### During research:

We will ensure all our participants will be treated with respect, keep culture sensitivities in mind. We will get consent from each participant and protect their personal data to build trust.

## Our Design:

We will commit that our system is inclusive, fair and respect the diverse background of users and the different cultures of each destinations. This means we try to avoid system bias, ensure geolocation privacy and be mindful of the potential social and environmental impact this system might cause. We aim to promote responsible and sustainable travel practices that includes all users and provide an overall experience for them.