# Research Proposal Presentation

An audio-narrated slide presentation and a transcript

***Word Count - 2110***

**Slide 01 : *Title page***

(Not included in the word count)

**Slide 02 : *Introduction***

Hello and welcome to my research proposal presentation.

This presentation of my research proposal allies with the learning objectives of the module. Here I will be explaining you how and why I selected this research topic, how will this contribute to the research discipline, how I will be analysing current literature, how relevant my research design and methodology to the selected topic along with planned data collection and analysis process. Furthermore, this study will explore emerging trends in cybersecurity training and education among international university students in the UK and their effects. This will also address practical challenges and recommend solutions relevant to the topic.

**Slide 03 : *Research Topic***

My research topic falls under the umbrella of the Cyber Security Body of Knowledge, usually known as CyBOK Knowledge Areas. ‘Human factors’ is one of the major topics covered under ‘Human, Organisational & Regulatory Aspects’ and I will be directing my attention to its fourth section, 'Cyber Security Awareness and Education' and it will serve as my primary focus of the research.

**Slide 04 : *Project Title***

Speaking of the Project Title, I wanted to narrow and focus the topic so that I can explore it carefully. Also, narrowing the topic will enable me to better understand the specific direction of my research.

According to Kaur and Kumar K.R, (2021), cyber security refers to safeguarding the confidentiality, integrity, and availability (CIA) of computing assets belonging to an organisation or connected to another network. The most challenging components of cybersecurity are sociotechnical, rather than technological. Therefore, it has been recognised that the "human factor" represents the most vulnerable part in the building safe and secure digital environments (Jeong et al., 2019). Due to the increase in cyber-attacks, many researchers recommend educating the young generation on cyber-security.

International university students in the UK are often subject to online threats because they frequently use internet and rely on its social networks and knowledge. Therefore, as a student at the University of Essex's online cybersecurity programme, through this research, I seek to identify their level of awareness and education about cybersecurity.

**Slide 05 : *key contributions to the research discipline***

* Cultural backgrounds represent both personal and social views and have a major effect on human behaviour. But they are frequently ignored in cybersecurity risk assessments (Alhasan, 2023) This study will investigate cybersecurity awareness and education levels of international students with diverse cultural backgrounds and the study's findings will offer valuable knowledge to address and prevent human-related cybersecurity risks.
* By uncovering gaps and misunderstandings on this subject among international students, the research will provide a solid foundation to develop data-driven cybersecurity awareness programmes.
* This will also provide reliable recommendations to universities, and cybersecurity professionals on further developing cybersecurity awareness and education campaigns for international university students in the UK.

**Slide 06:** ***Research Questions***

According to Bouchrika (2023), the research questions are developed to define many aspects of a study, like the population and variables, as well as the problems the research will address.

Therefore, this study will answer three main research questions –

1. How do international students see the importance of cybersecurity awareness and education for their academic and career development?
2. What are the most common misunderstandings or knowledge gaps in cybersecurity among international university students in the UK?
3. What recommendations can be provided to improve cybersecurity awareness and education among the target student group?

**Slide 07 : *Research Aims and Objectives***

Online fraud, hate speech, pornography, and gaming have all increased rapidly as a result of people's lack of knowledge about cybercrimes. Therefore, students must be educated how to use online resources while safeguarding themselves (Zebo Bekmurodovna and Farrukh Yuldashev, 2021)

The study aims to investigate the international university students in the UK, and their education levels and awareness on cybersecurity.

Research objectives are,

* Evaluate how cultural origins, previous knowledge, and experience influences students’ awareness and education on cybersecurity.
* Evaluate how availability of resources and institutional support affects students' cybersecurity awareness and education.
* Identify knowledge gaps and misunderstandings on the subject among the target student groups.
* Identify best strategies to improve cybersecurity awareness and knowledge among overseas students.

**Slide 08 : *Key literature related to the project***

Relevant literature is required for all research disciplines. Literature reviews enable researchers to evaluate their subject area and to clarify research objectives and questions (Snyder, 2019)

In this project, key literature I will be highlighting are,

* Different definitions of cybersecurity awareness and education.
* Previous research papers on cybersecurity awareness and education related to university students in different countries.
* Academic papers discussing different concepts, theories, and models to understand cybersecurity awareness and education in higher education settings.

**Slide 09 : *Research Design and Methodology***

Research designs aims to establish suitable frameworks for the studies (Sileyew, 2019) Research methodology is the route that scholars should follow to conduct their studies. It shows how to identify the problem, define objectives, and communicate the study findings (Sileyew, 2019)

This research will use a quantitative approach to identify patterns, analyse relationships, summarise, and generalise study findings through a small sample to a bigger population (Swanson and Holton, 2005).

On the other hand, descriptive methods are the most effective for collecting socioeconomic data from a sample. It provides an in-depth overview of the characteristics and actions of a specific population or phenomenon and directs and influence each stage of the study (Lowhorn, 2013; Larson, 2006).

**Slide 10 : *Sampling Strategy, Data Collection, and Data Analysis Methods***

Since it is not possible to collect responses from every student in the target group, random sampling of international students from various universities across the UK will be the best approach for this research.

In terms of data collection, traditional methods are expensive and lengthy and utilising internet technologies like email and online platforms are relatively inexpensive. They prove to be practical and efficient in gathering data from samples that are typically difficult to reach, and they have the capacity to capture vast amounts of data within a short amount of time (Kurzhals, 2021)

There is strong evidence that online questionnaires using well-known platforms like survey monkey and online surveys.ac.uk have been utilised in a number of cross-country studies. Without needing advance technical skills, these platforms enable researchers to conduct and their studies online (Regmi et al., 2016).

Once the data has been collected, descriptive statistics will be used to summarise them in order to draw conclusions to the study in the simplest way possible.

**Slide 11 : *Limitations of The Research***

* Variations in data quantity: For more accurate analysis, larger sample sizes are required. The limited number of data gathered through small samples are less credible and has an impact on the ability to apply study results to wider populations (Mcleod, 2022).
* Online surveys are frequently created by linking them to an online platform or emailing volunteers to complete them. In such situations, the reliability of results is limited because the researchers have limited control over who and how many people responses (Lefever, Dal and Matthíasdóttir, 2007).
* The participant lists in the online survey will not complete or perfect. Specially, the percentages of student email addresses collected per university will be varied, making a random sample impossible (Lefever, Dal and Matthíasdóttir, 2007).

**Slide 12 : *Ethical considerations***

Since this study uses human sample, it is important to consider the laws and regulations related to research ethics. These include the freedom of expression, independence, security, and well-being (Buchanan and Zimmer, 2021). Internet research ethics, like participant's consent, data privacy, security, anonymity and confidentiality, and data integrity as well as professional standards should also be considered because the data collection will be done online (Sugiura, Wiles and Pope, 2017)

**Slide 13 : *Project Timeline***

This is my 28 weeks’ timeline of proposed activities. A project timeline gives an in-depth view of a project, covering all its sections, like due dates, critical milestones, and key tasks  (Priority Management, 2021). Through this graphical format of timeline, I can quickly get an overview of the complete project.

First 3 weeks of the project will be dedicated to refining the research topic, questions, design, and planning. Then I will spend 4 weeks to finalize the literature review. Since accurate data collection is particularly important to this research, I hope to spend 10 weeks to complete this stage. Next 3 weeks I will use to finalize data analysis and draw conclusions. Final stage of the project is reviewing the draft documents with the supervisor and writing up the research report. Final submission will be done in the 28th week of the research.

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| **Stage** | **Action** | **Estimated duration in WEEKS** | **Start date** | **Deliverable** | **End date** |
| **Research topic, questions, design, and planning** | Confirm research topic and research questions | 1 |  | Confirmed research problem/questions |  |
| Planning research design and methodology | 1 |  | Draft research framework |  |
| Writing research proposal | 1 |  | Submit age get approval for the Research proposal. Get ethical approval from the university. |  |
| **Literature review** | Search relevant literature, search previous research papers related to the topic | 2 |  | Make notes from the relevant literature papers |  |
| Prepare draft literature review | 2 |  | Draft literature review section for final document |  |
| **Data collection** | Design sampling plan | 1 |  | Confirmed Sampling plan |  |
|  | Design online questionnaire for the data collection | 1 |  | Finalized online questionnaire |  |
|  | Pilot data collection and identify issues | 2 |  | Finalize pilot data collection and fix issues |  |
|  | Send out questionnaire and collect data | 5 |  | Raw data files |  |
|  | Close the questionnaire | 1 |  | Gather all data collected and ready for the analysis |  |
| **Data analysis** | Refine and start data analysis | 2 |  | Finalize descriptive data analysis |  |
|  | Draw conclusions/  recommendations | 1 |  | Finalize data analysis and findings document. |  |
| **Writing up the research report** | Start writing the final research report | 2 |  | Finalize the draft report |  |
|  | Review drafts the supervisor | 3 |  | Feedback received from the supervisor |  |
|  | Final editing / fix issues / attachments | 1 |  | Final draft ready for submission |  |
|  | Ready to submit to the supervisor/ university for grading | 2 |  | Final submission of the research report |  |

**Slide 14,15 and 16** : ***Reference***

Below are the primary source materials I referred to develop my research proposal. I discovered more about the field I will be researching by referencing these experts in my field of study. Similar to how sailors navigate by the stars, reference lists enable researchers find their way around the topic of study they have selected.

* Alhasan, I.Y. (2023) Human Factors in Cybersecurity: A Cross-Cultural Study on Trust. Available from: https://hammer.purdue.edu/articles/thesis/Human\_Factors\_in\_Cybersecurity\_A\_Cross-Cultural\_Study\_on\_Trust/23271581/1 [Accessed 1 May 2024].
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* Zebo Bekmurodovna, S. and Farrukh Yuldashev, K. (2021) The relevance of cyber security education in the classroom. ACADEMICIA: An International Multidisciplinary Research Journal 11(5): 637–645. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.5958/2249-7137.2021.01450.6.

**Slide 17**

This is the end of my research proposal presentation.

Thank you.