

DRAFT 1

Mohamed El-Sheikh

PROJECT DEFINITION DOCUMENT

CITY

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

— EST 1894 —



City, University of London

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BASIC INFORMATION

Title of Degree: BSc Computer Science

Project Title: university portal for all students across the UK

Name: Mohamed El Sheikh

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My Contact: 07453193069

Supervisor Name: Dr. Laure Daviaud

Supervisor Contact: Laure.Daviaud@city.ac.uk

Project Origins: The idea for the project was proposed by me (Mohamed El Sheikh)

Project Description: The purpose of this project is to successfully implement a social platform for students to help each other's out by sharing notes answering questions from different students. This platform will only be accessed by students. This application intends to expand and make exclusive the network of for all students at all universities, making the life of students at universities easier and less stressful than ever. Furthermore, the application intends to be a platform where students will get and share studying tips, productivity tips and finance tips to other students.

Proprietary Interests: Firebase2 will oversee the database system that serves as the backend, stores account data, and controls user authentication. The project owner, Mohamed El Sheikh, will always be the owner of all other code and designs created for this project. Ownership of the codebase and the finished application shall remain solely with owner.

Promises Made: More features will be added after I finish the degree, if I have time (subjected to change)

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED

The identified problem is the lack of a platform dedicated exclusively to students looking for help with their degree from different students or ask other students for tips and tricks to make their degree less stressful and easier to digest.

During my research process there was no present to such a portal that will let only students share their notes, tips, productivity, offering help to other students.

Many students face problems with their university work – not understating the content, needing someone to explain it to you and not the lecturer (as they wouldn't have time to everyone). This problem many of medicine students face when they are in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year normally. Fresher students will always need someone who can help and guide them from experience.

Therefore, this project intends to create a web app which:

- Allows login only to student accounts.
- Allows students to share notes and study tips
- Allows students to share productivity hacks that they have tried
- Will be a community to all students, and it will make university life easy for them.
- Students will get finance advice from other students

When I was studying this proposal, I have come across one website called “OneClass”, this website answers questions put by students. The bad side to this website is - it is not only limited to students meaning anyone can just make an account and answer wrong questions.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project shall aim to research, design and build a web app for university students, allowing them to share and post any kind of “student life” tips within the student community.

The project also aims to help students avoid interactions with popular websites that misleads students. Given direct communication with students will allow everyone to have an easy student life.

Below I have listed a set of objectives I hope to achieve throughout this project.

Primary Objectives

Objective	Testable Results
To better grasp what is already available, research and collect presently available applications that are like my web app.	Create documentation that includes illustrations of analogous apps that are already available in the industry and make note of their features and restrictions. Additionally, test these apps to discover any shortcomings and obtain useful information.
Start implementing my application as soon as possible to get ongoing user feedback.	The system's build phase will start early so that I can use the interaction technique, in which I implement the system through builds and tests.
Learn how to use React JS to build the app	Studying the functions, I need for my project in the documentation resource and constructing practice projects will help me become more proficient in JavaScript.

Learn how to build databases, storage, and user authentication using the Firebase Console.	Like with firebase, where I lack prior knowledge, I will need to delve deeper to develop what I need for my application. To achieve this, I will do project tests and review internet instructions.
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Sub-Objectives

Objective	Testable Results
Create initial drawings to present to end users and collect ideas for application additions based on user requirements.	As a result of the interactions, sample wireframes of the application interfaces will be made and presented to end users.
Keep track of the procedure and document tasks during the project and report on them.	Keep track of the project's many development iterations, noting all feedback from the supervisor and end users to enhance the application.
construct a formal requirements document for my project by collaborating with several students.	An initial set of functional and design specifications for the app, acquired from actual end users, will be used to generate the documentation.

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

All students from all universities will benefit from the project, specially, new international students from nations that are visiting the UK for the first time it will be a great help to see how the lifestyle of the UK students and they can make new friends who share the same interest.

Additionally, those students who are struggling with their university content and need someone who is willing to offer help, such as sharing resources, interests, tips, and so on.

The integration of students in the UK will be facilitated by experiencing the same struggle and hardships during their time at university, and this will help them concentrate better on their university studies without additional stress.

WORK PLAN

Pre-Build: Initial Social Research

- Initial discussion with end-users to gather a set of requirements

Pre-Build: Requirements Gathering

- Examine comparable programmes that are currently available and list their advantages and disadvantages.
- Compare their lack of offerings to what I propose in terms of what I offer.

Pre-Build: Programming Research

Learn to use React JS and Firebase Console in tandem to create the web apps using JavaScript tutorials and other resources that I may find useful (list will be reacted)

Build 0: JavaScript & Firebase Setup

- Compile all the data needed for the programme to function before design and construction.
- Create a backend database structure for data storage

Build 1: User Authentication & Accounts

- Build registration feature
- Build Navigator Menu Implement User Security Policies
- Implement functionality to register users & login.

Build 2: Posting Ad

- Implement functionality to create and share post:
- Implement Upload Image and Description

Build 3: Message & Interaction Users

- Implement functionality to allow users to interact with each other through messages.
- Build In-Messaging Firebase
- Implement 'Notification' Section

Build 4: Advance Searching

- Implement functionality to allow users to search for specific university using filters
- Build Search Features

Testing: Run User Test

- Throughout each "Build" phase, I will test the app both on my own and with testers like students.

Deliverables: Project Report

- Create a well-written final report that includes references to all the research i did and gives credit to any outside material I used.

Project planner

I have set up a Notion page where I will be managing my project from. (not finished).

The Notion board shows the following structure:

- Not Started:** 10 items
 - Pre-Build: Requirements Gathering
 - Pre-Build: Programming Research
 - Build 0: JavaScript & Firebase Setup
 - Setting up JavaScript on my Mac
 - Build 1: User Authentication & Accounts
 - Build 2: Posting Ad
 - Build 3: Message & Interaction Users
 - Build 4: Advance Searching
 - Testing: Run User Test
 - Deliverables: Project Report
- In Progress:** 1 item
 - Pre-Build: Initial Social Research (assigned to Mohamed El-Sheikh, Planning)
- Review:** 0 items
- Completed:** 1 item
 - Draft 1 of PDD

Buttons at the top right include: Filter, Sort, Q ..., New, Hidden groups, and No Status 0.

RESEARCH ETHICS CHECKLIST

PART A: Ethics Checklist.

A.1 If you answer YES to any of the questions in this block, you must apply to an appropriate external ethics committee for approval and log this approval as an External Application through Research Ethics Online - https://ethics.city.ac.uk/		<i>Delete as appropriate</i>
1.1	Does your research require approval from the National Research Ethics Service (NRES)? <i>e.g. because you are recruiting current NHS patients or staff?</i> <i>If you are unsure try - https://www.hra.nhs.uk/approvals-amendments/what-approvals-do-i-need/</i>	NO
1.2	Will you recruit participants who fall under the auspices of the Mental Capacity Act?	NO

	<p><i>Such research needs to be approved by an external ethics committee such as NRES or the Social Care Research Ethics Committee - http://www.scie.org.uk/research/ethics-committee/</i></p>	
1.3	<p>Will you recruit any participants who are currently under the auspices of the Criminal Justice System, for example, but not limited to, people on remand, prisoners and those on probation?</p> <p><i>Such research needs to be authorised by the ethics approval system of the National Offender Management Service.</i></p>	NO
	<p>A.2 If you answer YES to any of the questions in this block, then unless you are applying to an external ethics committee, you must apply for approval from the Senate Research Ethics Committee (SREC) through Research Ethics Online -</p> <p>https://ethics.city.ac.uk/</p>	<i>Delete as appropriate</i>
2.1	<p>Does your research involve participants who are unable to give informed consent?</p> <p><i>For example, but not limited to, people who may have a degree of learning disability or mental health problem, that means they are unable to make an informed decision on their own behalf.</i></p>	NO
2.2	<p>Is there a risk that your research might lead to disclosures from participants concerning their involvement in illegal activities?</p>	NO
2.3	<p>Is there a risk that obscene and or illegal material may need to be accessed for your research study (including online content and other material)?</p>	NO
2.4	<p>Does your project involve participants disclosing information about special category or sensitive subjects?</p> <p><i>For example, but not limited to: racial or ethnic origin; political opinions; religious beliefs; trade union membership; physical or mental health; sexual life; criminal offences and proceedings</i></p>	NO
2.5	<p>Does your research involve you travelling to another country outside of the UK, where the Foreign & Commonwealth Office has issued a travel warning that affects the area in which you will study?</p> <p><i>Please check the latest guidance from the FCO - http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/</i></p>	NO
2.6	<p>Does your research involve invasive or intrusive procedures?</p> <p><i>These may include, but are not limited to, electrical stimulation, heat, cold or bruising.</i></p>	NO
2.7	<p>Does your research involve animals?</p>	NO
2.8	<p>Does your research involve the administration of drugs, placebos or other substances to study participants?</p>	NO

<p>A.3 If you answer YES to any of the questions in this block, then unless you are applying to an external ethics committee or the SREC, you must apply for approval from the Computer Science Research Ethics Committee (CSREC) through Research Ethics Online - https://ethics.city.ac.uk/</p> <p>Depending on the level of risk associated with your application, it may be referred to the Senate Research Ethics Committee.</p>		
3.1	Does your research involve participants who are under the age of 18?	NO
3.2	Does your research involve adults who are vulnerable because of their social, psychological or medical circumstances (vulnerable adults)? <i>This includes adults with cognitive and / or learning disabilities, adults with physical disabilities and older people.</i>	NO
3.3	Are participants recruited because they are staff or students of City, University of London? <i>For example, students studying on a particular course or module. If yes, then approval is also required from the Head of Department or Programme Director.</i>	NO
3.4	Does your research involve intentional deception of participants?	NO
3.5	Does your research involve participants taking part without their informed consent?	NO
3.5	Is the risk posed to participants greater than that in normal working life?	NO
3.7	Is the risk posed to you, the researcher(s), greater than that in normal working life?	NO
<p>A.4 If you answer YES to the following question and your answers to all other questions in sections A1, A2 and A3 are NO, then your project is deemed to be of MINIMAL RISK.</p> <p>If this is the case, then you can apply for approval through your supervisor under PROPORTIONATE REVIEW. You do so by completing PART B of this form.</p> <p>If you have answered NO to all questions on this form, then your project does not require ethical approval. You should submit and retain this form as evidence of this.</p>		
4	Does your project involve human participants or their identifiable personal data? <i>For example, as interviewees, respondents to a survey or participants in testing.</i>	YES

PART B: Ethics Proportionate Review Form

If you answered YES to question 4 and NO to all other questions in sections A1, A2 and A3 in PART A of this form, then you may use PART B of this form to apply for a proportionate ethics review of your project. Your project supervisor has delegated authority to review and approve this application under proportionate review. You must receive final approval from your supervisor in writing before beginning the planned research.

However, if you cannot provide all the required attachments (see B.3) with your project proposal (e.g., because you have not yet written the consent forms, interview schedules etc.), the approval from your supervisor will be **provisional**. You **must** submit the missing items to your supervisor for approval prior to commencing these parts of your project. Once again, you must receive written

confirmation from your supervisor that any provisional approval has been superseded by with ***full approval*** of the planned activity as detailed in the full documents. **Failure to follow this procedure and demonstrate that final approval has been achieved may result in you failing the project module.**

Your supervisor may ask you to submit a full ethics application through Research Ethics Online, for instance if they are unable to approve your application, if the level of risks associated with your project change, or if you need an approval letter from the CSREC for an external organization.

B.1 The following questions must be answered fully. All grey instructions must be removed.		<i>Delete as appropriate</i>
1.1.	Will you ensure that participants taking part in your project are fully informed about the purpose of the research?	YES
1.2	Will you ensure that participants taking part in your project are fully informed about the procedures affecting them or affecting any information collected about them, including information about how the data will be used, to whom it will be disclosed, and how long it will be kept?	YES
1.3	When people agree to participate in your project, will it be made clear to them that they may withdraw (i.e. not participate) at any time without any penalty?	YES
1.4	Will consent be obtained from the participants in your project? Consent from participants will be necessary if you plan to involve them in your project or if you plan to use identifiable personal data from existing records. “Identifiable personal data” means data relating to a living person who might be identifiable if the record includes their name, username, student id, DNA, fingerprint, address, etc. <i>If YES, you must attach drafts of the participant information sheet(s) and consent form(s) that you will use in section B.3 or, in the case of an existing dataset, provide details of how consent has been obtained.</i> <i>You must also retain the completed forms for subsequent inspection. Failure to provide the completed consent request forms will result in withdrawal of any earlier ethical approval of your project.</i>	YES
1.5	Have you made arrangements to ensure that material and/or private information obtained from or about the participating individuals will remain confidential?	YES

B.2 If the answer to the following question (B2) is YES, you must provide details		<i>Delete as appropriate</i>
2	Will the research be conducted in the participant’s home or other non-University location? <i>If YES, you must provide details of how your safety will be ensured.</i>	NO

B.3 Attachments	YES	NO	Not Applicable
ALL of the following documents MUST be provided to supervisors if applicable. All must be considered prior to final approval by supervisors. A written record of final approval must be provided and retained.			
Details on how safety will be assured in any non-University location, including risk assessment if required (see B2)			✓
Details of arrangements to ensure that material and/or private information obtained from or about the participating individuals will remain confidential (see B1.5) <i>Any personal data must be acquired, stored and made accessible in ways that are GDPR compliant.</i>	✓		
Full protocol for any workshops or interviews**			✓
Participant information sheet(s)**	✓		✓
Consent form(s)**			✓
Questionnaire(s)** <i>sharing a Qualtrics survey with your supervisor is recommended.</i>	✓		
Topic guide(s) for interviews and focus groups**			✓
Permission from external organisations or Head of Department** <i>e.g. for recruitment of participants</i>			✓

****If these items are not available at the time of submitting your project proposal, then provisional approval can still be given, under the condition that you must submit the final versions of all items to your supervisor for approval at a later date. All such items must be seen and approved by your supervisor before the activity for which they are needed begins. Written evidence of final approval of your planned activity must be acquired from your supervisor before you commence.**

Changes

If your plans change and any aspects of your research that are documented in the approval process change as a consequence, then any approval acquired is invalid. If issues addressed in Part A (the checklist) are affected, then you must complete the approval process again and establish the kind of approval that is required. If issues addressed in Part B are affected, then you must forward updated documentation to your supervisor and have received written confirmation of approval of the revised activity before proceeding.

Templates for Consent and Information

You must use the templates provided by the University as the basis for your participant information sheets and consent forms. You **must** adapt them according to the needs of your project before you submit them for consideration.

Participant Information Sheets, Consent Forms and Protocols must be consistent. Please ensure that this is the case prior to seeking approval. Failure to do so will slow down the approval process.

We strongly recommend using Qualtrics to produce digital information sheets and consent forms.

Further Information

<http://www.city.ac.uk/department-computer-science/research-ethics>

<https://www.city.ac.uk/research/ethics/how-to-apply/participant-recruitment>

<https://www.city.ac.uk/research/ethics>