



**Dublin City University
RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE**

**APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF A PROJECT
INVOLVING HUMAN PARTICIPANTS**

Application No. (office use only)

DCUREC/2016/_____

Please read the following information carefully before completing your application. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will make your submission ineligible for review.

- **Applications must be e-mailed to the DCU Research Ethics Committee at rec@dcu.ie** –no hardcopy required.
- **Student applicants must cc their supervisor on that e-mail** – this applies to all masters and postgraduate students. **The form should be checked, approved and signed by the supervisor in advance of submission to REC.**
- **The application should consist of one electronic file only**, with an electronic signature from the PI. The completed application must incorporate all supplementary documentation, especially that being given to the proposed participants. It must be proofread and spellchecked before submission to the REC.
- **All sections of the application form must be answered as instructed and within the word limits given.**

Applications which do not adhere to all of these requirements will not be accepted for review and will be returned directly to the applicant.

Applications must be completed on the form; answers in the form of attachments will not be accepted, except where indicated. No hardcopy applications will be accepted. **Research must not commence until written approval has been received from the Research Ethics Committee.**

Note: If your research requires approval from the Biosafety Committee (BSC), or review by the School of Nursing and Human Sciences Ethics Advisory Committee (SNHSEAC), this must be in place prior to REC submission. Please attach the responses from these committees to this submission as directed below.

PROJECT TITLE	Student Carpooling
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S) <i>The named Principal Investigator is the person with primary responsibility for the research project. In the case of Taught Masters projects the supervisor is the Principal Investigator.</i>	Brian Stone
START AND END DATE	28/01/2019 - 08/03/2019
LEVEL OF RISK <i>Please indicate whether this project requires (a) expedited or (b) full committee review. Justification for your choice is required under section 3.1</i>	a

Please confirm that **all** supplementary information is included in your application (in electronic copy). If questionnaire or interview questions are submitted in draft form, please indicate this by putting (draft) after YES. A copy of the final documentation must be submitted for final approval when available.

My application has been collated as one electronic file which includes the following documentation:	INCLUDED (mark as YES)	NOT APPLICABLE (mark as N/A)
Bibliography		N/A
Recruitment advertisement		N/A
Plain language statement/Information Statement	YES	
Informed Consent form		N/A
Evidence of external approvals related to the research		N/A
Questionnaire/Survey		N/A
Interview/Focus Group Questions		N/A
Debriefing material		N/A
Other (e.g. BSC approval, SNHSEAC review letter)		N/A

Please note:

- Any amendments to the original approved proposal must receive prior REC approval.
- As a condition of approval investigators are required to document and report immediately to the Secretary of the Research Ethics Committee any adverse events, any issues which might negatively impact on the conduct of the research and/or any complaint from a participant relating to their participation in the study

1. ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

PROJECT TYPE: (mark Y to as many as apply)	Research Project	...	Funded Consultancy	...
			Clinical Trial	...
	Student Research Project (please indicate level, e.g. PhD/MSc Research/MSc Taught)	...	Other - Please Describe: Human Participants would need to enter their details, including their name, age and location, to participate in the app.	Y
	PhD	...		
	MSc Research	...		
	MSc Taught	...		

1.1 INVESTIGATOR CONTACT DETAILS

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S): *Doctoral researchers and Research Masters or their supervisors may be listed as Principal Investigators, depending on the conventions of the discipline and on the individual case. It should be made clear, in subsequent sections of this application, who is carrying out the research procedures.*

NAME	SCHOOL/UNIT	EMAIL

OTHER INVESTIGATORS: *(including Taught Masters students)*

NAME	SCHOOL/UNIT	EMAIL

1.2 WILL THE RESEARCH BE UNDERTAKEN ON-SITE AT DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY?

YES or NO

YES

(If NO, state details of the off-campus location – provide details of the approval to gain access to that location in section 2.7.)

1.3 IS THIS PROTOCOL BEING SUBMITTED TO ANOTHER ETHICS COMMITTEE, OR HAS IT BEEN PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TO AN ETHICS COMMITTEE?**YES or NO****N***(If YES, please provide details and attach copies of approval(s) received etc.)***DECLARATION BY PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S)**

The information contained herein is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, accurate. I have read the University's current research ethics guidelines, and accept responsibility for the conduct of the procedures set out in the attached application in accordance with the form guidelines, the REC guidelines (https://www4.dcu.ie/researchsupport/research_ethics/guidelines.shtml), the University's policy on Conflict of Interest, Code of Good Research Practice and any other condition laid down by the Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee. I have attempted to identify all risks related to the research that may arise in conducting this research and acknowledge my obligations and the rights of the participants.

If there exists any affiliation or financial interest for researcher(s) in this research or its outcomes or any other circumstances which might represent a perceived, potential or actual conflict of interest this should be declared in accordance with Dublin City University policy on Conflicts of Interest.

I and my co-investigators or supporting staff have the appropriate qualifications, experience and facilities to conduct the research set out in the attached application and to deal with any emergencies and contingencies related to the research that may arise.

Electronic Signature(s):

Principal investigator(s): _____

Print Name(s) here: _____

Date: _____

2. PROJECT OUTLINE

2.1 LAY DESCRIPTION (Approx. 300 words)

Please outline, in terms that any non-expert would understand, what your research project is about, including what participants will be required to do. Please explain any technical terms or discipline-specific phrases.

It is an android carpooling application exclusively for students. Upon downloading, each user would sign up with their details (E.g Name, University) and a recognised student email address. We would have a specific set of email domain names that the app will recognise, e.g mail.dcu.ie, which would ensure its specifically students signing up. Following signing up and logging in successfully, they'll distinguish whether they are a driver or a passenger. If the user chooses driver, the driver home page will offer them the choice to either to create a trip, view trip notices or to view trips already created. Passengers, will have the ability to request to join a pre-existing trip or create a request for a trip notice. When a passenger clicks on a trip, they can see how many vacant seats the car has, and once each seat has been filled, the trip is removed from the 'find trips' page. The driver, which has created the trip, can respond to requests to join their car. The driver which makes the trip, must state the time they are leaving and their approximate arrival time. Each user has a "My Trips" section where they can view upcoming trips, along with their own profile and is able to message drivers or passengers. After each carpool ends, each user has the option to rate their fellow passengers, with a 5-star rating system. So, for future trips, other users can make choices of who they are travelling with based on the ratings. Once a trip starts, each user's location appears on the map and you can see the movement of the driver as they move towards their passengers. Only the users in the same trip can see each other's locations, once the trip ends, they are no longer visible.

In terms of user testing, we plan to conduct cognitive walkthroughs, focus groups and questionnaire based on their experience. Users would be required to input their required personal information into the app upon testing.

2.2 AIMS OF AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THE RESEARCH (Approx. 400 words)

State the aims and significance of the project. Where relevant, state the specific hypothesis to be tested. Please provide a brief description of background research, a justification as to why this research project should proceed in that context and an explanation of any expected benefits to the community. NB – all references cited should be listed in an attached bibliography.

The main goal is to help students in Ireland commute to their various universities. Part of a student's routine is travelling to and from college, so carpooling regularly provides an alternative for connecting students, while helping the environment, along with saving time and money.

The background behind this app was because one member of our group often uses public transport to college which can be unreliable, expensive and is often late. The other member, who drives, stated that they could carshare only they do not travel the same route. This sparked the idea of a carpool app for students as it became clear that this is a problem for many people and limiting it to only students leaves a level of reassurance among passengers. As students ourselves who live at home and not on campus we can see the benefits in which this application could bring, with one who commutes via a car and the other by public transport, we can understand it from two different perspectives.

2.3 DESCRIBE THE METHODOLOGY BEING USED TO ACHIEVE YOUR STATED AIMS

Provide an outline of the proposed method and state who is doing which task – include details of data collection techniques, the tasks participants will be asked to do, the estimated time commitment involved, and how data will be analysed. If the project includes any procedure which is beyond already established and accepted techniques please include a description of it. There should be enough detail provided to facilitate ethical review, but applicants are encouraged to keep it as succinct as possible.

When first using the app, users need to register before being able to login. The registration form requires the new user to enter a valid student email address. This step is crucial as it is how we will ensure student exclusivity. The domain of the inputted email must match our drop down list of Irish college and universities email domains. Other basic information is

required, like name, college, age, etc. After successfully registering, each user will have the option to upload a profile image of their choice, however, this step is not required. Upon passengers requesting a car ride from a driver, their profile information (which includes their name, profile image, username, average ratings) and location is required to be shared with the relevant driver. Also, upon a user requesting a trip, they can also view a drivers' profile information. The driver's location will be made available for those apart of the specific journey and can be tracked only when on route. Username will be shown to other users, alongside their name and the email address of the users will be hidden to others.

2.4 PARTICIPANT PROFILE

Provide the number, age range and source of participants. Please provide a justification of your proposed sample size. Please provide a justification for selecting a specific gender, age, or any other group if this is done in your project.

The only source of participant our app requires is that they are current students attending a recognised college/university of our application. It doesn't specify any age or gender that must be required, just that an age must be entered and one of the genders must be chosen. As long as the user has a valid student email address, and are able to validate that email address (an automated verification will be sent to the user upon successfully registering, within that email will contain a link). The reason for our this student exclusivity is to establish a level of reassurance among passengers, by creating a circle of trust among the Irish students using the app.

2.4(a) PARTICIPANT VULNERABILITY

Are some or all of participants vulnerable in any way? (e.g by virtue of the group they belong to, people who have undergone traumatic or adverse emotional events, people with diminished cognitive ability, power relations between researchers and participants etc.)? If they are, state what this vulnerability (or vulnerabilities) is and justify why this research is being done with such participants.

The participants could be potentially vulnerable, in terms of agreeing or taking part in a rideshare. This feature, whoever, is entirely up to the user themselves and if they wish to partake. No user will be forced into having to create a trip or to join one. The reason in why this aspect can result in users being vulnerable is due to the fact that they may not be familiar with those in which they are travelling with. To help accommodate this, we plan to implement a messaging system for the users to communicate beforehand, and to have a rating system where each users will have a rating out of 5 stars based on previous trips.

2.4(b) CHILD PARTICIPANTS (anyone under 18 years old)

If your participants include children, you must confirm that you are in compliance with the research specific guidelines as detailed in "Keeping Children Safe - Policies and Procedures supporting Child Protection at DCU" - available at: https://www4.dcu.ie/sites/default/files/policy/157%20-%20child_protection_handbook_rev1%282%29%281%29.pdf

Please indicate your compliance with the following guidelines:	Mark here
We confirm that we have read and agree to act in accordance with the DCU Child Protection policy and procedures	yes
We confirm that we have put in place safeguards for the children participating in the research	yes
We confirm that we have supports in place for children who may disclose current or historical abuse (whether or not this is the focus of the research)	yes

2.5 EXPLAIN HOW PARTICIPANTS ARE TO BE RECRUITED

Please provide specific details as to how you will be recruiting participants. How will people be informed that you are doing this research? How will they be approached and asked if they are willing to participate? If you are mailing or phoning people, please explain how you have obtained their names and contact details. If a recruitment advertisement is to be used, please ensure you attach a copy to this application.

Participants will be chosen through word of mouth. Those being our families, friends and peers, with the target audience being students, more specifically student commuters.

2.6 PLEASE EXPLAIN WHEN, HOW, WHERE, AND TO WHOM RESULTS WILL BE DISSEMINATED, INCLUDING WHETHER PARTICIPANTS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH ANY INFORMATION AS TO THE FINDINGS OR OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT?

We plan on using the firebase real-time database to store user information. When a user joins a trip, certain information is shared with other passengers including their name approximate location, and once the trip starts, their exact location becomes available to other. For the driver, their movement will be tracked by instantaneously updating the longitude and latitude of their exact geographic location .Students will be given the option to upload a picture voluntarily so that other users can view this on their profile along with their user rating. Upon a user viewing a profile, it will display the information provided within the registration activity, apart from their email and password. Also, previous and upcoming trips that users were apart of are stored within the "My Trips" activity.

2.7 ARE OTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED TO GAIN ACCESS TO ANOTHER LOCATION, ORGANISATION ETC.?

YES or NO

no

(If YES, please specify from whom and attach a copy of the approval documentation. If this is not yet available, please explain when this will be obtained.)

2.8 HAS A SIMILAR PROPOSAL BEEN PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE DCU REC?

YES or NO

no

(If YES, please state both the REC Application Number and Project Title)

3. RISK AND RISK MANAGEMENT

3.1 JUSTIFICATION OF STATED LEVEL OF RISK TO RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

You must provide a justification for the stated level of risk, as indicated on the cover page of your application. Note that the level of risk may be influenced by the vulnerability of the research group, the methods employed and the nature of the research itself. For further information on risk levels, please refer to the Types of Submission information on the website: https://www4.dcu.ie/researchsupport/research_ethics/guidelines/types.shtml

Participant users who would use this app will do so voluntarily. However, basic information including their email address, name, age etc, is required upon registration. We require approval for this app as users are sharing their personal information with the app, which is stored within its database and is able to be viewed by other users within the same car ride. (This information includes profile information, email not included). User's location is also shared, that is, only if they wish to make/join/request a trip. This means that for a driver to be able to find a passenger of a specific trip, they need to be given their exact location. We will be using google maps to power this. For a passenger, they need to be aware they their driver is on route and how far they are to their location. The email of users to only needed for signing up and logging in and will not be shared to others.

3.2 DOES THE RESEARCH INVOLVE:

	YES or NO
• use of a questionnaire? (attach copy)?	NO
• interviews (attach interview questions)?	NO
• observation of participants without their knowledge?	NO
• participant observation (provide details in section 2)?	YES
• audio- or video-taping interviewees or events?	NO
• access to personal and/or confidential data (including student, patient or client data) without the participant's specific consent?	NO
• administration of any stimuli, tasks, investigations or procedures which may be experienced by participants as physically or mentally painful, stressful or unpleasant during or after the research process?	NO
• performance of any acts which might diminish the self-esteem of participants or cause them to experience embarrassment, regret or depression?	NO
• investigation of participants involved in illegal activities?	NO
• procedures that involve deception of participants?	NO
• administration of any substance or agent?	NO
• use of non-treatment of placebo control conditions?	NO
• collection of body tissues or fluid samples?	NO
• collection and/or testing of DNA samples?	NO
• participation in a clinical trial?	NO
• administration of ionising radiation to participants?	NO

3.3 POTENTIAL RISKS TO PARTICIPANTS AND RISK MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

Identify, as far as possible, all potential risks to participants (physical, psychological, social, legal, economic, etc.), associated with the proposed research. Please explain what risk management procedures will be put in place to minimise these risks.

The main potential risk for users is being in a carpool with an unsafe driver. Our app will have a messaging service where users can communicate with each other, so a user could request to see proof of a driver's license, or plan to meet in person beforehand if they are not acquaintances, etc. Users can also rate each other after a trip, so if a driver is unsafe, they would generate a bad rating, preventing other passengers from wanting to join their future trips.

3.4 ARE THERE LIKELY TO BE ANY BENEFITS (DIRECT OR INDIRECT) TO PARTICIPANTS FROM THIS RESEARCH?

YES or NO

YES

(If YES, provide details.)

Our objective is to make the lives of students easier in terms of travelling and costs. Not only learning to drive is expensive, but also having to fill a car with petrol each week for a long commute can add up, but many students don't have that luxury of being able to get the most

out of public transport through using a leap card. Our goal is to normalize the idea of car sharing with your peers and meet those who you may not have had the chance to before. It is often difficult to find people from your area, or along your route, to add to your carpool, without help. It leads to the only people car sharing being those who know each other quite well. The app can provide a more flexible option for finding commuters and make their student lives a little bit easier.

3.5 ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC RISKS TO RESEARCHERS?

Examples include use of dangerous materials, asking certain types of questions, research being undertaken in certain locations, researchers working alone in isolated areas, etc.

YES or NO

NO

(If YES, please describe and explain what risk management procedures will be put in place to minimise these risks.)

3.6 DEALING WITH ADVERSE/UNEXPECTED OUTCOMES

Please describe what measures/protocols you have put in place in the event that there are any unexpected outcomes or adverse effects to participants arising from involvement in the project.

If a user has progressively bad ratings, or is reported by another user, this will be reviewed by the app developers. If this is major concern to our other users, then the specific issue will first be issued a warning and if bad behaviour continues, they will be banned from the app.

3.7 HOW WILL THE CONDUCT OF THE PROJECT BE MONITORED?

Please explain how the principal investigator will monitor the conduct of the project (especially where several people are involved in recruiting or interviewing, administering procedures, etc.) to ensure that it conforms with the procedures set out in this application. In the case of student projects please give details of how the supervisor(s) will monitor the conduct of the project.

We will meet face-to-face with our supervisor on a weekly basis and are also able to connect virtually via email. Throughout the meetings, we are advised on anything we require along with documenting and critiquing our progress at each phrase, ensuring that we stay on track.

3.8 SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPANTS

Depending on risks to participants you may need to consider having additional support for participants during/after the study. Consider whether your project would require additional support, e.g., external counselling available to participants. Please advise what support will be available.

Upon the successful completion of our app, if any user were to have any related queries or concerns, there will be an email address in which they can contact. This email address will be owned by the application developers.

3.9 DO YOU PROPOSE TO OFFER PAYMENTS OR INCENTIVES TO PARTICIPANTS?

YES or NO

No

(If YES, please provide further details.)

- 3.10 DO ANY OF THE RESEARCHERS ON THIS PROJECT HAVE A PERSONAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, FINANCIAL OR COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN ITS OUTCOME THAT MIGHT INFLUENCE THE INTEGRITY OF THE RESEARCH, OR BIAS THE CONDUCT OR REPORTING OF THE RESEARCH, OR UNDULY DELAY OR OTHERWISE AFFECT THEIR PUBLICATION?

YES or NO

No

(If YES, please specify how this conflict of interest will be addressed.)

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4. INVESTIGATORS' QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS (Approx. 200 words)

List the academic qualifications and outline the experience and skills relevant to this project that the PI, other researchers and any supporting staff have in carrying out the research and in dealing with any emergencies, unexpected outcomes, or contingencies that may arise.

5. CONFIDENTIALITY/ANONYMITY**5.1 WILL THE IDENTITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS BE PROTECTED?**

YES or NO

YES

(If NO, please explain why.)

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO 5.1, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

5.2 HOW WILL THE ANONYMITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS BE RESPECTED?

Please bear in mind that where the sample size is very small, it may be impossible to guarantee anonymity/confidentiality of participant identity. Participants involved in such projects need to be advised of this limitation in the Plain Language Statement/Information Sheet.

Only the users in app name and username will be available to other users of the app, the choice of providing a profile picture is optional. When a user joins and is accepted into a trip, then their exact location is shared amongst the other users of the trip. The driver who makes a trip, can set the location they are travelling from, to whatever they choose, and it does not have to be specific it can be vague, e.g north Dublin. Only upon the journey starting is when the real time location of the driver is broadcasted to the specific passengers. We plan to ensure that no unnecessary information is shared among users.

5.3 LEGAL LIMITATIONS TO DATA CONFIDENTIALITY

Participants need to be made aware that confidentiality of information provided cannot always be guaranteed by researchers and can only be protected within the limitations of the law - i.e., it is possible for data to be subject to subpoena, freedom of information claim or mandated reporting by some professions. This information should be included in your Plain Language Statement and Informed Consent Form. Depending on the research proposal and academic discipline, you may need to state additional specific limitations.

State how and where participants will be informed of these limitations, or give a justification if this will not be done.

When a user is signing up for the app, before they finish, the terms and conditions of the app will be made available to them, so they know before signing up exactly what the app will consist of and the responsibilities they themselves have when signing up to the app and using it safely.

6 DATA/SAMPLE STORAGE, SECURITY AND DISPOSAL

For the purpose of this section, "Data" includes that in a raw or processed state (e.g. interview audiotape, transcript or analysis). "Samples" include body fluids or tissue samples.

6.1 HOW AND WHERE WILL THE DATA/SAMPLES BE STORED?

Note that the REC recommends that all data be stored on campus – please justify any off-site storage.

The app data will be stored within the firebase real-time database and cloud storage. The real time database is a NoSQL cloud hosted database. Meaning that the data is not confined to any given location.

6.2 WHO WILL HAVE ACCESS TO DATA/SAMPLES?

If people other than the main researchers have access, please name who they are and explain for what purpose.

Only the main developers of the app will have access to the data samples. Users are able to view their own information entered upon registration within their personal profiles on the app only and won't have access to our database.

6.3 IF DATA/SAMPLES ARE TO BE DISPOSED OF, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW, WHEN AND BY WHOM THIS WILL BE DONE?

Note that simply deleting files is not sufficiently secure. The additional steps to be taken to maintain data security should be given. If data/samples are NOT being disposed of, please justify this decision.

If a student wishes to delete their account on the carpooling app, they will be given the functionality in order to do so. By doing so, their email address will be removed from our Firebase authentication library and their corresponding information within the Firebase real time database will be removed also, according to their unique user ID(which is generated alongside their email).

7. FUNDING

7.1 HOW IS THIS WORK BEING FUNDED?

There is no funding involved.

7.2 PROJECT GRANT NUMBER (If relevant and/or known – otherwise mark as N/A)

N/A

7.3 DOES THE PROJECT REQUIRE APPROVAL BEFORE CONSIDERATION FOR FUNDING BY A GRANTING BODY?

YES or NO

...

7.4 HOW WILL PARTICIPANTS BE INFORMED OF THE SOURCE OF THE FUNDING? (e.g. will it be included in the Plain Language Statement)

N/A

7.5 DO THE FUNDERS OF THIS PROJECT HAVE A PERSONAL, FINANCIAL OR COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN ITS OUTCOME THAT MIGHT COMPROMISE THE INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF THE RESEARCH, OR BIAS THE CONDUCT OR REPORTING OF THE RESEARCH, OR UNDULY DELAY OR OTHERWISE AFFECT THEIR PUBLICATION?

YES or NO

...

(If Yes, please specify how this conflict of interest will be addressed.)

8. PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT *(Include in this document. Approx. 400 words)*

A Plain Language Statement (PLS) should be used in all cases. This is written information in plain language that you will be providing to participants, outlining the nature of their involvement in the project and inviting their participation. The PLS should specifically describe what will be expected of participants, the risks and inconveniences for them, and other information relevant to their involvement. Please note that the language used must reflect the participant age group and corresponding comprehension level – if your participants have different comprehension levels (e.g. both adults and children) then separate forms should be prepared for each group. The PLS can be embedded in an email to which an online survey is attached, or handed/sent to individuals in advance of their consent being sought. See link to sample templates on the website: http://www4.dcu.ie/research/research_ethics/rec_forms.shtml

Research Study: User Testing for Student Carpooling Application

Department: DCU School of Computing

Researchers:

- Hannah O'Connor(hannah.oconnor26@mail.dcu.ie)
- Catherine Mooney(catherine.mooney33@mail.dcu.ie)

We're seeking participants to take part in the testing of our third year project. This project is a "Student Carpooling", it is a student exclusivity android application. It's purpose being to help students around Ireland in their commute to their Colleges/Universities. It targets both those who driver and commute via public transport.

The research to be undertaken is for the purpose of gathering user feedback on the app's design and functionality and how we can improve its overall user experience. Typically, most students have never carpoled before, unless friends already. With this app, it paves the way to making new friends, offer a help handing to your fellow students and to contribute to the college community.

Our User testing will mainly consist of Cognitive walkthroughs. Here, the user will use the app for the first time, testing out its functionality and will also be required to enter personal information upon signing up, such as Name, Age, University, profile picture(optional) and email. The personal information will be made available to other users on the basis that they are partaking in a pre-existing trip or are creating a new trip. The user's email will never be shared and is only enquired for sign in purpose and to ensure the student exclusivity of the app. User locations will only be required when partaking in a trip, such as being a driver and users can track your movement upon the starting of a new trip or if a passenger within a trip, that passengers location will be made available to the driver.

The data in which the app stores will only be retained for a short period. That is,

after our project has been presented in early March. Taking part in this user testing is completely voluntary and if any any participant wishes to no longer be included, they can withdraw freely and their data will be destroyed.

The source code for this project can be found on gitlab:

<https://gitlab.computing.dcu.ie/moonec33/2019-ca326-moonec33-studentcarpooling.git>

PLEASE CONFIRM WHETHER THE FOLLOWING ISSUES HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED IN YOUR PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT/ INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS:

	YES or NO
Introductory Statement (PI and researcher names, school, title of the research)	YES
What is this research about?	YES
Why is this research being conducted?	YES
What will happen if the person decides to participate in the research study?	YES
How will their privacy be protected?	YES
How will the data be used and subsequently disposed of?	YES
What are the legal limitations to data confidentiality?	YES
What are the benefits of taking part in the research study (if any)?	YES
What are the risks of taking part in the research study?	YES
Confirmation that participants can change their mind at any stage and withdraw from the study	YES
How will participants find out what happens with the project?	YES
Contact details for further information (including REC contact details)	YES

If any of these issues are marked NO, please justify their exclusion:

9. INFORMED CONSENT FORM (Include in this document. Approx. 300 words)

In most cases where interviews or focus groups are taking place, an Informed Consent Form is required. This is an important document requiring participants to indicate their consent to participate in the study, and give their signature. If your participants are minors (under 18), it is best practice to provide them with an assent form, while their parents/guardians will be given the Informed Consent Form. In cases where an anonymous questionnaire is being used, it is enough to include a tick box in the questionnaire (underneath the information section for participant), where participants can indicate their consent.

See link to sample templates on the website: http://www4.dcu.ie/research/research_ethics/rec_forms.shtml

NB – IF AN INFORMED CONSENT FORM IS NOT BEING USED, THE REASON FOR THIS MUST BE JUSTIFIED HERE

User Testing Informed Consent Form for “Student Carpooling” application

Department: DCU School of Computing

Developers/Researchers:

- Hannah O'Connor(hannah.oconnor26@mail.dcu.ie)
- Catherine Mooney(catherine.mooney33@mail.dcu.ie)

This is a study about an android application “Student Carpooling” carried out by Hannah O’Connor and Catherine Mooney. It is intended for students, with their commute to their various colleges and universities. Our goal is to make the application and the process of car sharing as simply as possible, along with ensuring that our app is user friendly. Your participation will help us achieve this goal in terms of its correct design and functionality.

In this testing, it will consist of Cognitive walkthroughs, you will be working with our application for less than 10 minutes. Here, we’ll ask you to perform tasks that are expected and to act as a passenger user, or a driver. These tasks would include: signing up, messaging another user, examining another users’ ratings and profile, to find a trip/find a trip request, join a trip, accept/decline a request and rate another user. After the time is up, you will be asked to on how we could improve the functionality or enhance the user experience.

Locations will only be required when partaking in a trip, such as being a driver and the passengers can track your movements upon starting the trip or if a passenger within a trip, that passengers’ pick up location will be made available to the driver upon first requesting for that trip. However, for the purpose of this user testing, you will not be asked to actually take part in a carpool with another user, the purpose is for you to report to developers on how easy/difficult the process of creating or finding a carpool is.

The developers of this application will seat alongside you, observing and documenting your tasks and the responsiveness of the app. They will also be able to guide you if at any point you are lost.

All information gathered from user registration, trips or messages within the application will be stored until the demonstration of the project in early March, and will be used for internal purposes until then. After that, the data will be destroyed. Your feedback on the app will be used to help improve the overall design of the application, it will be kept anonymous and will not include your name.

The goal is to test the application, and not the users themselves. We want to inspect how the application can be made to make your experience all the better. You will be allowed to drop out at any given time during the testing process, and if so, any personal data collected from within the application or through feedback, will be destroyed.

For the purpose of this application, we require you to be over 18 years old and a college or university student. To ensure that you are a student, you will need a student email upon registration and be able to confirm through a verification email. If you do not have an android device, you will be testing the application on a virtual device.

Statement

Participant Signature

I have read the description of the study. I voluntarily agree to participate in the study and can withdraw from this testing after any given time for any given reason.

Signature of Developer/Researcher

I believe that this user has given their consent to partake in the user testing of this study.

Date
