

APPLICATION FOR RESEARCH ETHICS APPROVAL

Version 4 - FINAL – 27/01/15

All researchers should be familiar with the University's Research Ethics Policy and associated procedures, available [here](#). No element of a research project which falls under the scope of the Policy should begin before written approval has been given.

All research projects are subject to ethics approval. This form enables researchers to either:

- 1) declare a project out of scope. The form incorporates a short cut for this.
- 2) provide more detail on ethical considerations. Research ethics approval is required for research projects that:
 - directly involve people in research activities, through their physical participation, eg. interviews, questionnaires, surveys, observational research, requiring the active or passive involvement of a person;
 - indirectly involve people in the research activities, through their provision of or access to personal data and/or tissue
 - involves people on behalf of others (eg. legal guardians of children and the psychologically or physically impaired and supervisors of people under controlled environments (eg. prisoners, school pupils).

There are special arrangements for research in the health and when it involves animals, and guidance should be sought direct from the Committee in these cases.

Convening an event, such as a conference or workshop, only requires research ethics approval where research takes place, eg. leading to an identifiable research output, and only that specific part of the event where the research is taking place.


Please note that all events (seminars, conference, workshops, etc) should be discussed with your Director of Department taking into consideration any professional ethics or reputational concerns.


IF YOU ARE UNSURE, YOU SHOULD ASSUME RESEARCH ETHICS APPLIES. IN THIS CASE SEEK GUIDANCE FROM THE COMMITTEE BEFORE CONTINUING.

Part A – Overview of the project							
1	Title of the project	How do differing input methods impact players' ability during competitive play in fighting games?					
2	Briefly summarise the project's aims, objectives and methodology	<p>The main aim of this project is to find out if the use of differing input methods has any effect on players ability while playing "arcade style" fighting games such as Street Fighter, and deliver a final definitive answer to which, if there is a difference, is the control method that allows the player to perform better.</p> <p>The main objective that I have for my research project is to find out how different control methods impact on players ability during competitive gameplay, and how the players skill and anthropometric data can also have an impact on their performance too.</p> <p>The methodology that I will be following during my research will be as follows: I will get my participants to participate in a pre-test to ascertain their baseline skill level, which will allow me to place them into skill brackets, as well as undertaking a measurement for their hand size as this will assist me in analysing my usability data .</p> <p>I will then put each participant up against an AI opponent, and a human opponent, while using all 3 of the controllers, doing this will provide me with quantitative data about the impact of the input devices on the players' ability.</p> <p>To gather some qualitative data about the input devices, I will be utilising a questionnaire to get some insight on the players' thoughts about the usability of the devices, doing this will allow me to make more informed conclusions and form better arguments when analysing the other data I will gather.</p> <p>In addition to capturing the visuals of the matches, I'll be using my programming task to capture of all of the controller inputs, this will allow me to easily go back over the matches and look for any small points I may have missed during earlier observations.</p>					
3	Start and end dates	30/11/2018-07/05/2019					
4	Principal Investigator	Title: Mr Name: Jack Kieran Maber Department: Games Academy					
5	Other key investigators	Title	Name	Post	Role in project	Organisation	Department
		Dr.	Rory Summerley	Lecturer	Supervisor	Falmouth University	Games Academy
Part B – Does the project require research ethics approval?							

6a	<p>Does any part of the project constitute research, ie. a process of investigation leading to new insights, effectively shared (eg. identifiable research output)?</p> <p>If you answer No to this question please provide a rationale here (max 100 words)</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Don't know</p> <p>If Yes or don't know, continue to 6b. If No, the project is out of scope. Go direct to 18a.</p>
6b	<p>Does your research involve participants of any type, ie. humans or animals, directly or indirectly? Review the questions in Part C as a guide</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Don't know</p> <p>If Yes or don't know, continue to Part C. If No, the project is out of scope. Go to direct to 18a.</p>
Part C – Details of the research		
7	<p>Give a brief reflection/overview of the ethics issues in this project.</p>	<p>The only issue that I can see arising from my project are that of any potential leaks of personal information belonging to my participants.</p>
8	<p>Who will the participants be? Identify specifically any vulnerable groups or individuals and address any special measures you intend to take to accommodate them</p>	<p>The participants will be fellow Games Academy students and fellow regulars at Fight Night, which is a VGSOC event that is held weekly that focuses purely on fighting games, this allows me to have access to a wider variety of skilled potential participants. From what I know, none of the potential participants that will need any special measures put in place to accommodate them during the research.</p>
9	<p>How will participants be recruited and how many will be involved?</p>	<p>I will recruit my participants through face to face engagement during my time during the games studio, and during my participation at Fight Night, I will present potential participants with an information sheet to ensure that they have all the details they need. By using a G-Power analysis, I have come to the conclusion that I'll require 54 participants to take part when taking into account the current research conditions.</p>
10	<p>What will participants be asked to do?</p>	<p>I will first get my participants to participate in a pre-test to ascertain their baseline skill level, this will be done by asking them to perform a set number of "motions" and measuring how consistent they are, and from this I will then place them into 3 different skill categories.</p> <p>I will then put each participant up against an AI opponent, repeating the match with each of the control methods that I have selected to test for 2 matches in a best of 3 format, then I'll put them up against a human opponent, using the same format. After this I will ask them to fill out a questionnaire to ascertain their feelings about the different control</p>

		methods and inquire about their previous experience with them, if any at all.
11	What potential risks to the interests of participants do you foresee and what steps will you take to minimise those risks? A participant's interests include their physical and psychological well-being, their commercial interests; and their rights of privacy and reputation	The only risk that I could foresee occurring during my research is the leaking of my participant's personal information. However to combat this I will recording the information in a secure manner on my Google Sheets, forms and OneDrive, which are both password protected and have 2-step verification processes in place to ensure the safety of the information.
12	Will you be obtaining personal information from any of the participants? E.g. name, personal opinions, address, recorded images or audio, date of birth, notes and observations.	<p>Yes</p> <p>If you answer 'Yes', please give details. In your response, please consider:</p> <p>How will you store and use this information during the course of your research?</p> <p><i>OneDrive, Google Sheets and Google Forms</i></p> <p>What parts of this information will need to be confidential and how?</p> <p><i>Any identifying personal information, it will need to be stored securely where only I have access to it.</i></p> <p>Will you exhibit or publish the information?</p> <p><i>No</i></p> <p>Will you retain information after the research is concluded?</p> <p><i>No. I will delete all personal information once the research has concluded.</i></p> <p>If information is to be destroyed, explain why this is appropriate.</p> <p><i>To protect the privacy and well-being of participants.</i></p>
13	What potential risks to yourself or other members of the research team do you foresee and what steps will you take to minimise those risks? Eg. does your research raise issues of personal safety for you or others involved in the project, especially if	I foresee no risks to myself or other members of the research team.

	taking place outside working hours or off University premises	
14	What potential risks to the environment do you foresee and what steps will you take to minimise those risks, eg. does your research involve plants or soil	I can't foresee any risk to the environment during the course of my research.
15	Will payments or in-kind contributions be made to participants?	· YES · NO <i>If YES, please state amount and whether payment is for out-of-pocket expenses, or a fee</i>
16	If the project is to receive financial support (real or in-kind) from outside the University, please give details, including any restrictions that have been imposed upon the conduct of the research. Please discuss this with RIO. Financial propriety, protection of commercial rights and reputation are important for you, the University and other third parties (eg. sponsors, participants etc.)	This research will not receive any external funding.
17	Will any restrictions be placed on the publication of results?	· YES · NO <i>If YES, please state the nature of the restrictions, (eg. details of any confidentiality agreement)</i>
18a	Declaration of Principal Investigator if activity is out of scope	I confirm that the form is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief and it does not fall under the scope of the Research Ethics Policy. Signature:  Date: 30/11/18
18b	Declaration of Principal	I confirm my responsibility to deliver the project in accordance with the

	Investigator if activity is in scope	<p>University's Research Ethics Policy and Guidelines on Good Research Practice and, where externally funded, with the terms and conditions of the research funder. In signing this form I am also confirming that:</p> <p>a) The form is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.</p> <p>b) There is no potential material interest that may, or may appear to, impair the independence and objectivity of researchers conducting this project.</p> <p>c) I undertake to conduct the project as set out in the application unless deviation is agreed by the University and to comply with any conditions.</p> <p>d) I agree to keep all ethics issues in the project under review and to re-submit a new application for ethics approval should any new issue arise or significant change occurs.</p> <p>e) I understand and accept that the ethical propriety of this project may be monitored by the University.</p> <p>f) I have included the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ An information sheet (compulsory) ✓ A consent form (compulsory) ✓ Copy of the full proposal/application (compulsory) ✓ Other relevant information <p>Signature: </p> <p>Date: 30/11/18</p>
19	Support from Director of Department	<p>I have reviewed the project with the applicant and confirm it either does not fall under the scope of the Research Ethics Policy or I support it.</p> <p>Full Name:</p> <p>Signature:</p> <p>Date:</p>
20	REC use only	