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](https://sp.falmouth.ac.uk/sites/re/ethics/default.aspx). 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.

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| Part A – Overview of the project | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Title of the project | How do differing input methods affect players ability during competitive play in fighting games? | | | | | |
| 2 | Briefly summarise the project’s aims, objectives and methodology | 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 Dragon Ball FighterZ, and deliver a final definitive answer to which, if there is a difference, is the control method that allows the player to perform better.  The objectives that I want to work towards during my project is to find….  The methodology that I will be following during my research to ensure that I collect quality and sufficiently extensive data will be to first ensure that my participants fill out a survey so that I can assess their previous experience with fighting games and if they have any experience with the input methods that I will be assessing; this data will be useful as it will allow me to make more informed conclusions as I’ll be able to better the tie the game play results with the user’s ability and assess it from there.  I will then put each participant up against an AI opponent in both games, repeating the match with both of the control methods, to make sure that I gather all of the data that I need to analyse matches well enough to draw well informed conclusions, I’ll record the individual matches with software such as OBS so that I can go over the footage as much as I want so that if any of my points require visual confirmation, it can be done.  In addition to capturing the visuals of the matches, I’ll be using my programming task to capture of all of the controller inputs so that I can actually use quantitative data to back up my research on the input methods. I’ll also be collecting the match results, time to complete a match and the win lose ratio of the individual participants. | | | | | |
| 3 | Start and end dates | ? | | | | | |
| 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 |
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| Part B – Does the project require research ethics approval? | | | | | | | |
| 6a | Does any part of the project constitute research, ie. a process of investigation leading to new insights, effectively shared (eg. identifiable research output)?  If you answer No to this question please provide a rationale here (max 100 words) | Yes No Don’t know  If Yes or don’t know, continue to 6b. If No, the project is out of scope. Go direct to 18a. | | | | | |
| 6b | Does your research involve participants of any type, ie. humans or animals, directly or indirectly? Review the questions in Part C as a guide | Yes No Don’t know  If Yes or don’t know, continue to Part C. If No, the project is out of scope. Go to direct to 18a. | | | | | |
| Part C – Details of the research | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Give a brief reflection/overview of the ethics issues in this project. | However, that is the only issue that I can see arising as all of my information that I will be gathering will be anonymous and will not need to feature any personal information. | | | | | |
| 8 | Who will the participants be? Identify specifically any vulnerable groups or individuals and address any special measures you intend to take to accommodate them | The participants will be fellow Games Academy students. From what I know, none of the potential participants that will need any special measures put in place to accommodate them during the research. | | | | | |
| 9 | How will participants be recruited and how many will be involved? | I will recruit my participants through word of mouth during my time during the games studio. **It is** **unknown at this point how many participants will be involved in my research.** | | | | | |
| 10 | What will participants be asked to do? | The participants will be asked to fill out a form to ascertain their skill level through a series of questions that I will later use to split up the test field. They will then play a pre-determined number of matches against CPU opponents in each game, with both control methods being used by each participant. | | | | | |
| 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 | on. | | | | | |
| 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. | Yes  **If you answer ‘Yes’, please give details. In your response, please consider:** How will you store and use this information during the course of your research?  Onedrive  What parts of this information will need to be confidential and how?  Any identifying personal information, it will need to be stored securely where only I have access to it.  Will you exhibit or publish the information?  No  Will you retain information after the research is concluded?  No. I will delete all personal information once the research has concluded.  If information is to be destroyed, explain why this is appropriate.  To protect the privacy and well-being of participants. | | | | | |
| 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 taking place outside working hours or off University premises | I foresee no risks to myself or other members of the research team. | | | | | |
| 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  *If YES, please state amount and whether payment is for out-of-pocket expenses, or a fee* | | | | | |
| 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  *If YES, please state the nature of the restrictions, (eg. details of any confidentiality agreement)* | | | | | |
| 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: | | | | | |
| 18b | Declaration of Principal Investigator if activity is in scope | I confirm my responsibility to deliver the project in accordance with the 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:   1. The form is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. 2. There is no potential material interest that may, or may appear to, impair the independence and objectivity of researchers conducting this project. 3. 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. 4. 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. 5. I understand and accept that the ethical propriety of this project may be monitored by the University. 6. I have included the following documents:   An information sheet (compulsory)  A consent form (compulsory)  Copy of the full proposal/application (compulsory)  Other relevant information  Signature:  Date: | | | | | |
| 19 | Support from Director of Department | 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.  Full Name:  Signature:  Date: | | | | | |
| 20 | REC use only |  | | | | | |