



Dublin City University  
School of Computing

## APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF AN UNDERGRADUATE OR TAUGHT MASTERS PROJECT INVOLVING **HUMAN PARTICIPANTS**

**Please read the following information carefully before completing and submitting your application.**

- **Applications must be submitted via the project dashboard**
- **Student applicants must include their supervisor as the Principal Investigator (PI).** The form should be checked, approved and signed in digital form by the supervisor in advance of submission.
- **The application should consist of one electronic file only, in PDF format,** with an electronic signature from the PI (the project supervisor) and yourselves, the students. The completed application must incorporate all supplementary documentation, especially those being given to the proposed participants.
- **All sections of the application form must be answered as instructed and within the word limits given.**

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. **The project must not commence until approval has been received from the School Research Ethics Committee.**

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Sentiscape Messaging Application
<b>PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S)</b> <i>The Principal Investigator is the project supervisor and s/he has primary responsibility for the project.</i>	Dr. Hyowon Lee
<b>START AND END DATE</b>	20/09/2021 – 22/04/2022
<b>STUDENT NAME(S), COURSE AND YEAR (E.G. EC4)</b>	Jason Boylan, Kelan Smyth, CASE4
<b>LEVEL OF RISK</b> <i>Please confirm that this project requires notification only</i>	Notification only: YES

---

## 1. ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

### 1.1 WILL THE PROJECT BE UNDERTAKEN ON-SITE AT DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY?

YES or NO

NO

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

The project will be undertaken off-site, as users will be testing using their mobile phones. It can be completed anywhere.

---

### DECLARATION BY PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR / SUPERVISOR

*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://www.dcu.ie/researchsupport/researchethics.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 project that may arise in conducting this project and acknowledge my obligations and the rights of the participants.*

*If there exists any affiliation or financial interest for researcher(s) in this project 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 and/or supporting staff have the appropriate qualifications, experience and facilities to conduct the project set out in the attached application and to deal with any emergencies and contingencies related to the project that may arise. Supervisor(s) signature(s) are required as evidence that they have read and approve the submission.*

#### **Please note:**

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

#### **Electronic Signature(s):**

Principal investigator / Supervisor: Hyowon Lee\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name(s) here: Hyowon Lee\_\_\_\_\_

Date: 25/02/2022\_\_\_\_\_

#### **I/We, the students on this proposal, have read and approve this submission**

Student(s) signature(s): Jason Boylan, Kelan Smyth\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name(s) here: JASON BOYLAN, KELAN SMYTH\_\_\_\_\_

Date: 23/02/2022\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. PROJECT OUTLINE

### 2.1 LAY DESCRIPTION, AIMS & JUSTIFICATION, METHODOLOGY (up to 100 words)

*Please outline, in terms that any non-expert would understand, what your project is about, including what participants will be required to do. Please explain any technical terms or discipline-specific phrases. State the aims and significance of the project.*

The aim of this project is to develop a mobile messaging application that will allow users to message one another as well as view summaries of previous conversations. It will also convey the predominant emotion being felt in the conversation.

Once the application has been completed, usability testing will be conducted with 14 participants forming groups, each will be asked to use the app, messaging each other in the group for 15 minutes and offer feedback in the form of a short survey. The results of this survey will be used to help us in our overall evaluation of the project.

### 2.2 PARTICIPANT PROFILE

*List and very briefly describe each participant group where applicable. For instance, participant group 1 will consist of..., participant group 2 will consist of... etc. Indicate if minors (Under 18) are involved. Provide the number, age range and source of participants. Please provide a justification of your proposed sample size.*

There will be six participant groups. The first 5 will consist of pairs who will message each other back and forth. The 6<sup>th</sup> group will consist of 4 people who will message using a group chat.

There will be no minors involved. The participants will be aged 18 – 23 who are active users of text messaging apps, the target user groups the project is targeting. We plan to recruit from our own peers in the module. There is no specific criteria regarding gender.

The sample size will consist of 5 pairs which will total 10 people. This should be enough for a varied survey. There will only be 1 group for group chats as it is only a small component of the project.

### 2.3 PARTICIPANT RECRUITMENT

*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 (e.g. through social media, if so include the text at the end of the form) is to be used, please ensure you attach a copy to this application (Approx. 100 words).*

Participants will be students in the course and they will be contacted via email with a link to the survey.

### 2.4 IS IT LIKELY THAT ANY PARTICIPANTS COULD BE CONSIDERED POTENTIALLY VULNERABLE?

*Are some or all 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 students and participants etc.)?*

YES or NO

NO

*If Yes, please state and describe what this vulnerability (or vulnerabilities) is and justify why this research is being done with such participants*

### 2.5 WILL THE IDENTITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS BE PROTECTED?

YES or NO

YES

If NO, please explain why

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO 2.5, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

**2.6 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. If you intend to fully anonymize the data, please provide details

The user will not be asked for any identifying details from the app or from the survey, and the usability testing analysis, interim notes, results, report and presentation will not mention any identifiable information.

**2.7 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 project proposal and academic discipline, you may need to state additional specific limitations.

State how and where participants will be informed of these limitations

They will be informed at the beginning of the survey, included in the Plain Language Statement and Informed Consent Form.

**2.8(a) 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 e-mailing, 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 students in the course and they will be contacted via email with a link to the survey.

**2.8(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](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	N/A
We confirm that we have put in place safeguards for the children participating in the project	N/A
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 project)	N/A

**2.9 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?**

Participants will not be provided with information regarding the outcomes of the project, only the investigators can access it as it will be used as part of the project evaluation. If they wish to find out about the results, they can contact the investigators.

**2.10 ARE OTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED TO GAIN ACCESS TO ANOTHER LOCATION, ORGANISATION, SCHOOL 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.

**3. RISK AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

**3.1 EXPLAIN AND JUSTIFY THE STATED LEVEL OF RISK TO PARTICIPANTS**

You must provide a justification that the stated level of risk and its corresponding level of review is notification only and not Full Committee or Expedited, as indicated on the cover page of your application. No project is completely without risk. Note that the level of risk may be influenced by the vulnerability of the research group, the methods employed and the nature of the project itself. For further information on risk levels, please refer to the Levels of Review information on the website: <https://www.dcu.ie/researchsupport/researchethics.shtml>

The level of review is Notification as the participants testing out the application will not be asked for any identifying information. Data collected from the testing will not have any identifiable personal information or any other sensitive information, and will not be audio- or video-recorded. The testing period will also be limited to maximum 15 minutes (excluding the post-task survey time) to avoid participants getting eye strain from using the smartphone.

**3.2 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 project. Will your project involve deception, investigation of participants involved in illegal activities, performance of any acts which might diminish the self-esteem of participants or cause them to experience embarrassment, regret or depression? Please explain what risk management procedures will be put in place to minimise these risks.

The only potential risk involved in conducting this test is eye strain. The procedure we have in place to deal with this is to limit the participant to 15 minutes of using the application during testing. However, if any of the participants shows or complains any sign of eye strain or tiredness, they will be advised to stop the testing and rest. The participants will be free to exit the testing at any point without any penalty, as stated in the Informed Consent Form.

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

YES or NO

NO

If YES, provide details

**3.4 ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC RISKS TO YOURSELVES IN CARRYING OUT THIS PROJECT?**

Examples include use of dangerous materials, asking certain types of questions, The project 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

### 3.5 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.

We agree to regularly meet with our supervisor to monitor the project and enable them to help deal with unexpected outcomes, and this will provide support for participants and monitor the project

As we are not using any identifying information about the user the chances of any adverse/unexpected outcomes is negligible. In the unlikely event of a participant getting eye strain the user test will be stopped immediately and rest will be recommended. We also agreed to regularly meet with our supervisor to monitor the project and enable them to help deal with any unexpected outcomes, and this will provide support for participants.

### 3.6 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.

No additional support for the participants is necessary.

### 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.

The supervisor will be communicated with throughout the project in order to direct us in our development and deployment of our application. Our supervisor will ensure the protocol specified in this document will be kept in recruiting/administering, performing the sessions, analysing the data and writing the report/presentation.

### 3.8 DO YOU PROPOSE TO OFFER PAYMENTS OR INCENTIVES TO PARTICIPANTS?

YES or NO

NO

If YES, please provide further details

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

---

YES or NO
NO

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

--

#### 4. PERSONAL DATA - COMPLIANCE WITH THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

Applicant declaration:

0	I understand that the proposed project, as set out in this form, is to be carried out by me in my capacity as a student of Dublin City University.	YES or NO	YES
---	--	-----------	-----

##### Definition of Personal Data

Personal data is any information about a living person, where that person is either identified or could be identified, from the data itself or when it is combined with other data. Typical examples of personal data in a research context are:

a) paper based records e.g. consent forms, research participant files, patient records, interview notes etc.

b) electronic records e.g. database of participant details, online survey returns, photos, audio & visual recordings, IP addresses, diagnostic / clinical imaging etc.

c) other e.g. genetic data, biometric data, clinical or medical samples etc.

Note: If personal data is to be obtained and / or processed in the course of the proposed research then there are certain legal obligations and principles to be followed. These are set out in the EU 2016 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and associated Irish Law.

Any data that is fully and completely anonymous is not considered to be 'personal data'. However, any data that is merely pseudo-anonymised is deemed to be 'personal data'.

Further information on data protection issues is available from the University's [Data Protection Unit \(DPU\)](#). You should also consider consulting with your Unit's [GDPR Advocate](#) for help and advice on filling out this section of the form.

#### 4.1 ASSESSING DATA PROTECTION RISKS & REQUIREMENTS

(A) Your knowledge of Data Protection		
Have you taken and completed the online data protection training course ('Data Protection Course') that is available to all staff and students through the <a href="#">DCU Loop System</a> ?	YES or NO	YES

If you answered 'No' to the previous question then the DPU strongly recommends that all applicants complete the course on Loop before completing section # 4 of the REC Application Form.

If you experience difficulties in accessing the Loop course at the link above, please contact the [Teaching Enhancement Unit](#) for assistance.



**(B) Initial Assessment of whether any of the data to be used in the proposed research is 'Personal Data' (see definition above)**

1	Will the proposed research include living human subjects? <i>Rationale – personal data applies only to living individuals.</i>	YES or NO	YES
2	Will the proposed research use any data that can be linked to an identified, or an identifiable, person? <i>Rationale – to be personal data it must be possible to associate it with an identified, or an identifiable, living person.</i>	YES or NO	NO
3	Will the proposed research use any data identifiers that can be linked to a living person? Examples are a participant's name, code or ID number, their address, their IP address etc. <i>Rationale: fully anonymised data is not deemed to be 'personal data' but data that has been deemed to be merely pseudo-anonymised is deemed to be 'personal data'.</i>	YES or NO	NO

If you answered 'Yes' to any of the questions 1 to 3 in sub-section (B), then continue to sub-section (C) and answer questions 1-8. If you answered 'No' to all of the questions 1 to 3 in sub-section (B), then proceed directly to section # 5 of this Application Form.

**(C) Assessing the degree of risk inherent in the personal data**

1	Will the proposed research involve the use of <u>personal data</u> on individuals that reveals any of the following attributes or characteristics about them?  (State 'Yes' or 'No' as appropriate to all of the following)		NO
	<i>Racial or Ethnic Origin</i>	YES or NO	NO

	<b>Political Opinions</b>	YES or NO	NO
	<b>Religious or Philosophical Beliefs</b>	YES or NO	NO
	<b>Trade Union Membership</b>	YES or NO	NO
	<b>Genetic Data</b>	YES or NO	NO
	<b>Biometric Data</b>	YES or NO	NO
	<b>Data Concerning Health</b>	YES or NO	NO
	<b>Data concerning a Person's Sex Life or Sexual Orientation</b>	YES or NO	NO
2	<p>Will the proposed research involve the use of <u>personal data</u> relating to children or vulnerable individuals?</p> <p><i>A child, for data protection purposes, is defined as an individual below 18 years of age. Where the processing relates to 'electronic marketing' the age limit is reduced to 16 years. A vulnerable individual may be anyone who is unable to consent to, or to oppose, the processing of his or her data for any reason, including disability.</i></p>	YES or NO	NO
3	Will the proposed research involve the use of data relating to an individual's criminal convictions and / or offences?	YES or NO	NO

4	<p>Will the proposed research involve the large-scale processing of <u>personal data</u>?</p> <p><i>This may include: a wide range or large volume of personal data; processing which takes place over a large geographical area; processing where a large number of people are affected (e.g. over 100 individuals); or where the processing is extensive or it has potential long-lasting effects on individuals.</i></p>	YES or NO	NO
5	<p>Will the proposed research involve any form of <u>automated processing</u> of personal data?</p> <p><i>In particular, to analyse or predict aspects concerning that person's performance at work, economic situation, health, personal preferences, interests, reliability, behaviour, location or movements.</i></p>	YES or NO	NO
6	<p>Will the proposed research involve the sharing or transferring of any personal data to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party outside of DCU?</p> <p><i>For example, other research partners, providers of translation or transcription services, etc.</i></p> <p><i>For clarity, this question is not intended to refer to any standard software services already provided by DCU, for example the university's email system or its cloud-based storage provider (Google Drive).</i></p>	YES or NO	NO
7	<p>Will the proposed research require the sharing or processing of personal data outside the EU or the EEA? (e.g. the US, the UK, Canada, Australia, China etc.)</p> <p><i>The EEA refers to the 'European Economic Area' (i.e. the EU plus Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland).</i></p>	YES or NO	NO

8	<p>Will the proposed research involve the matching or combining of separate datasets of information on individuals in a way that would exceed their reasonable expectations of privacy?</p> <p><i>This is especially important where two or more previously anonymous datasets are combined in such a way so as to allow for the identification of individuals. An example would be combining mobile phone location data along with any other dataset to identify individuals.</i></p>	YES or NO	NO
---	--	-----------	----

#### Important Point: Next Step

If you answered 'Yes' to one or more of the questions 1 to 8 in sub-section (C) **You should consult with your Supervisor / Principal Investigator to who** will assess whether there are any further data protection issues to be addressed or additional procedures to be followed.

#### Note 1: What does 'Minor' and 'Vulnerable Individual' mean?

A **minor** is defined as an individual below 18 years of age. Where the processing relates to 'electronic marketing' the age limit is reduced to 16 years. A **vulnerable individual** may be anyone who is unable to consent to, or oppose, the processing of his or her personal data for any reason. Both of these are of particular importance if the project compels the provision of data from individuals.

#### Note 2: What does 'large scale processing' mean?

The GDPR does not define what constitutes large-scale. EU guidance recommends that the following factors, in particular, be considered when determining whether the processing is carried out on a large scale:

- the number of data subjects (either as a specific number or proportion of the relevant population);
- the volume of data and/or the range of different data items being processed;
- the duration, or permanence, of the data processing activity; &
- the geographical extent of the processing activity.

Examples of large-scale processing include, but are not limited to:

- processing of patient data in the regular course of business by a hospital;
- processing of travel data of individuals using a public transport system (e.g. tracking via travel cards);
- processing of real time geo-location data of customers of an international fast food chain for statistical purposes by a processor specialised in these activities;
- processing of customer data in the regular course of business by an insurance company or a bank;
- processing of personal data for behavioural advertising by a search engine; &
- processing of data (content, traffic, location) by telephone or internet service providers.

Examples that do **not** constitute large-scale processing include, but are not limited to:

- processing of patient data by an individual physician; and
- processing of personal data relating to criminal convictions and offences by an individual lawyer.

### B. Applicant Data Protection Assessment Questionnaire – Part II

5(a)	<p>Does your project include the use of Personal Data of individuals which reveals any of the attributes or characteristics below?</p> <p>If 'Yes,' please indicate which will be used in your project <b>(tick all that apply)</b>:</p>	YES or NO	NO
------	--	-----------	----

	<i>racial or ethnic origin</i>	YES or NO	NO
	<i>political opinions</i>	YES or NO	NO
	<i>religious or philosophical beliefs</i>	YES or NO	NO
	<i>trade union membership</i>	YES or NO	NO
	<i>genetic data</i>	YES or NO	NO
	<i>biometric data</i>	YES or NO	NO
	<i>data concerning health</i>	YES or NO	NO
	<i>data concerning a natural person's sex life or sexual orientation</i>	YES or NO	NO
<b>5(b)</b>	Does your project include the use of Personal Data relating to minors or vulnerable individuals? (See <b>Note 1</b> , below)	YES or NO	NO
<b>6</b>	Does your project include the use of Personal Data of individuals relating to their criminal convictions and/or offences?	YES or NO	NO
<b>7</b>	Does your project include large-scale processing of personal data relating to living individuals?  <i>This may include: a wide range or large volume of personal data; processing which takes place over a large geographical area; or where a large number of people are affected (e.g. over 100 individuals); or where the processing is extensive or has long-lasting effects. (See <b>Note 2</b>, below)</i>	YES or NO	NO
<b>8</b>	Does your project include any form of automated processing of personal data, used to evaluate certain personal aspects relating to a living individual?  <i>In particular, to analyse or predict aspects concerning that person's performance at work, economic situation, health, personal preferences, interests, reliability, behaviour, location or movements</i>	YES or NO	NO
<b>9</b>	Does your project include any partners which are third parties outside of DCU?  <i>e.g. Research partners, third party software providers or other providers such as translation or transcription services, etc.</i>	YES or NO	NO
<b>10 (a)</b>	Does your project involve the sharing or processing of Personal Data outside the EU or the EEA?  <i>i.e. the EEA is the European Economic Area (the EU plus Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland)</i>	YES or NO	NO

10 (b)	If 'Yes', please state which non-EU or EEA country is involved:		
11	Does the project require the matching or combining of separate datasets of information on individuals in a way that would exceed their reasonable expectations of privacy?  <i>An example would be combining mobile phone location data along with any other dataset to identify individuals.</i>	YES or NO	NO

If you answered 'Yes' to one or more of these questions, you should make sure that you have strong and secure data privacy risk mitigation safeguards in place, discuss these with your supervisor.

#### 4.2 WILL ANONYMISATION OR PSEUDONYMISATION OF THE PERSONAL DATA, WHERE APPLICABLE, BE UNDERTAKEN?

**Anonymisation** is the process of removing personal identifiers, both direct and indirect, that may lead to an individual being identified. **Pseudonymisation** is the processing of personal data in such a manner that the personal data can no longer be attributed to a specific living individual without the use of additional information, provided that such additional information is kept separately and is subject to technical and organisational measures to ensure its security.

YES or NO
YES

If YES, please explain below the methods by which you intend to anonymise/pseudonymise the personal data:

The survey will be anonymous. Participants won't have to enter any personal data or identifying information when using the application.

### 5. DATA/SAMPLE STORAGE, SECURITY AND DISPOSAL

For the purpose of this section the term 'Data' includes personal data that is in a raw or a processed state (e.g. interview audiotape, transcript or analysis, etc.). The term 'Samples' include body fluids and/or tissue samples.

#### 5.1 HOW AND WHERE WILL THE DATA/SAMPLES BE STORED?

DCU recommends that any data stored electronically offsite should utilise the DCU Google Drive. Alternative offsite storage will need to be justified and must meet data protection and GDPR compliance requirements.

DCU Google Drive will store the surveys and Firebase will store usernames and passwords which will be encrypted. These usernames do not have to be the user's real names or contain any identifiable information.

#### 5.2 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.

The main researchers and the project supervisor have access.

#### 5.3 HOW LONG IS THE DATA TO BE HELD OR RETAINED?

Note that, with very few exceptions, **Personal Data** may not be retained indefinitely. It is up to the project team to establish an upper retention limit for each category of Personal Data used within the project and to ensure it is applied at the expiry of that limit. The School of Computing Research Ethics Committee recommends that Personal Data is retained until after the Progression and Awards Board for the current academic year.

Data captured during the testing will be retained until the module grades are published (22/04/2022).

5.4 IF YOUR PROJECT DOES INVOLVE THE USE OF PERSONAL DATA THEN WILL THIS BE USED AT A LATER DATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PUBLICATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE PROJECT?

YES or NO

NO

Where it is intended that the personal data used in the project will be used at a later date for the purposes of publication please explain how consent to do so will be obtained.

5.5 IF THE DATA/SAMPLES ARE TO BE DISPOSED OF AT THE END OF THE PROJECT 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. **Personal data** must be disposed of in a safe and secure manner at the end of its retention period. If the data is stored in (a) a paper-based format, then shredding or disposal via a secure bin is recommended; or (b) in an electronic-based format, then deletion of the record or the full anonymization of the data is recommended. If data/samples are **not** being disposed of, please justify that intention.

<b>How will the data/samples be disposed of?</b> Please describe the means by which the personal data will be deleted or destroyed. This includes personal data held in hard copy and digital formats.	Any paper-based notes will be shredded. The electronic data will be deleted from both Firebase and Google Drive, as well as the "Bin" of Google Drive.
<b>By whom will the data/samples be disposed?</b> Please indicate the designated team member(s) with responsibility for deletion and/or destruction of the research project's personal data.	Jason Boylan and Kelan Smyth.

## 6. PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT (Attach to this document. Up to a max of 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: <https://www.dcu.ie/researchsupport/ethicsapproval.shtml>

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

Note that this list is a check-list of all of the things that you should include in your plain language statement, if they are relevant (they are in most cases). In the earlier sections of this form you have already written the text that can be used to create your plain language statement. References to the relevant sections are provided on each line.

	YES or NO
Introductory Statement (Student(s) and supervisor names, school, title of the project) [Table, p 1]	YES
What is this project about? [section 2.1]	YES
Why is this project being conducted? [section 2.1]	YES
What will the participant be expected to do/have to do if they decide to participate in the study?[section 2.1]	YES
How will their privacy be protected? [section 2.5, section 2.6]	YES
How will the data be used and subsequently disposed of? [section 5.3]	YES
What are the legal limitations to data confidentiality? [section 2.7]	YES
Are there any benefits of taking part in the study? [section 3.3]	YES
Are there any risks of taking part in the study? [section 3.2]	YES
Confirmation that participants can change their mind at any stage and withdraw from the study [see plain language statement template, appendix 1]	YES
How will participants find out what happens with the project? [section 2.9]	YES
Contact details for further information [see plain language statement template, appendix 1]	YES

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

----------------------

## 7. INFORMED CONSENT FORM (Attach to this document. Approx. 300 words, see appendices 2 and 3 for templates.)

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. In cases where an anonymous questionnaire is being used, it is not enough to include a tick box in the questionnaire. Participants should indicate their consent to each aspect of the research in a staged manner by checking mandatory checkboxes.

See link to sample templates on the website: <https://www.dcu.ie/researchsupport/ethicsapproval.shtml>

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

----------------------



## 8. ASSENT FORM & PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT FOR CHILDREN *(Attach to this document.)*

A child specific Plain Language Statement (PLS) should be used in project where children will be involved. The PLS must be written in a way that is understandable for children within your targeted age group. It also must state, in plain language, 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. In addition, child participants should also be provided with an Assent Form. Parents/guardians will be provided with the Informed Consent Form, but each child should provide assent before taking part in the project. The Assent Form needs to be understandable to the age-group you are targeting. See link to sample templates on the website: <https://www.dcu.ie/researchsupport/researchethics.shtml>

**NB – IF AN ASSENT FORM IS NOT BEING USED, THE REASON FOR THIS MUST BE JUSTIFIED HERE.**

## 9. SUBMISSION CHECKLIST *(Attach to this document)*

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 PDF file which includes the following documentation:	INCLUDED (mark as YES)	NOT APPLICABLE (mark as N/A)
Recruitment advertisement [consistent with section 2.3]		N/A
Plain language statement/Information Statement [see section 6 and appendix 1]	YES	
Informed Consent form [see appendices 2 and 3]	YES	
Informed Assent form (children only)		N/A
Evidence of external approvals related to the research [see sections 1.1 and 2.10]		N/A
Questionnaire/Survey	YES	
Interview/Focus Group Questions		N/A

---

## **Appendix 1**

### **DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY**

#### **Plain Language Statement**

#### **Introduction to the Study**

An evaluation of a mobile application built to allow users to message each other with new, additional features.

**Research Supervisor:** Dr. Hyowon Lee

**Email:** [hyowon.lee@dcu.ie](mailto:hyowon.lee@dcu.ie)

#### **Student Researchers:**

Jason Boylan

[jason.boylan27@mail.dcu.ie](mailto:jason.boylan27@mail.dcu.ie)

Kelan Smyth

[kelan.smyth33@mail.dcu.ie](mailto:kelan.smyth33@mail.dcu.ie)

**Organisation:** School of Computing, DCU.

#### **Purpose and rationale of this study**

This study is being completed as part of a project evaluation for the CA400 module. The purpose of this study is to examine what users think of the implementation of the chat application and to receive feedback to improve the application from user testing. For the purpose of this study the users will be asked to use the application for a maximum of 15 minutes and complete an anonymous survey after completion.

#### **What does participation involve?**

Participation in the study is voluntary, if you agree to participate it will involve using the Sentiscape application for a maximum of 15 minutes and the completion of an anonymous survey. The survey will take approximately 5 minutes, leaving the total survey time around 20 minutes.

#### **Am I eligible to participate?**

Individuals above the age of 18 years of ages are eligible to participate.

#### **How will data be used and subsequently disposed of?**

The findings of the current study will be included in a fourth-year project evaluation. The data will be stored on a password protected google drive account and a password protected Firebase Database, both having google encryption. The data will be held for the duration of the learning exercise. Access to the data will be limited to the project supervisor Dr. Hyowon Lee, and the student researchers. Following the completion of the study the data will be stored until the project is graded, after which the data will be deleted.

#### **How will confidentiality be ensured?**

Confidentiality is of paramount importance to the researchers. Data will be collected for this study by means of an anonymous survey. Your response will be sent to the researchers without any information that may identify you, such as your email address or name.

#### **What are the benefits of taking part in the research?**

There may be indirect benefits from participation in this study, as participation may contribute to the development of a new chat application and new chat application features.

#### **What are the potential risks of my involvement in this study?**

The current research poses a low level of risk. If you feel uncomfortable answering any part of the survey you have the right to withdraw from the research at any point, without having to provide an explanation and without consequences or penalties. In the case of the online survey, this can be done by simply exiting the survey window before the survey has been submitted. If under any circumstance you feel affected by, or uncomfortable either during or after the study you are welcome to contact any of the researchers through their emails mentioned above. If you wish to discuss your feelings or experience surrounding any aspect of the

---

administration of this study please contact the Counselling and Personal Development Service in Dublin City University on [counselling@dcu.ie](mailto:counselling@dcu.ie), or on 01-7005165.

**How can we find out what happens with the research?**

If you would like to receive a summary of the research findings, please contact the researchers at the email addresses provided above.

**If participants have concerns about this study and wish to contact an independent person, please contact:**

The Secretary, Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee, c/o Research and Innovation Support, Dublin City University, Dublin 9. Tel 01-7008000, e-mail [rec@dcu.ie](mailto:rec@dcu.ie)

---

## **Appendix 2**

### **DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY**

#### **Sample Template – Informed Consent Form (approx. 300 words)**

**Study Title**

An evaluation of a mobile application built to allow users to message each other with new, additional features.

**Research Supervisor:** Dr. Hyowon Lee

**Email:** [hyowon.lee@dcu.ie](mailto:hyowon.lee@dcu.ie)

**Student Researchers:**

Jason Boylan

[jason.boylan27@mail.dcu.ie](mailto:jason.boylan27@mail.dcu.ie)

Kelan Smyth

[kelan.smyth33@mail.dcu.ie](mailto:kelan.smyth33@mail.dcu.ie)

**Confirmation of particular requirements as highlighted in the Plain Language Statement**

*Requirements may include involvement in interviews, completion of questionnaire, audio/video-taping of events etc.. Getting the participant to acknowledge requirements is preferable, e.g.*

Participant – please complete the following (Circle Yes or No for each question)

*I have read the Plain Language Statement (or had it read to me)* Yes/No

*I understand the information provided* Yes/No

*I understand the information provided in relation to data protection* Yes/No

*I have had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss this study* Yes/No

*I have received satisfactory answers to all my questions* Yes/No

*I understand I may withdraw from the Research Study at any point* Yes/No

*I have read and understand the arrangements to be made to protect confidentiality of data, including that confidentiality of information provided is subject to legal limitations* Yes/No

*I have read and understand confirmations relating to any other relevant information as indicated in the PLS* Yes/No

*I consent to participate in this research study* Yes/No

**Signature:**

I have read and understood the information in this form. My questions and concerns have been answered by the researchers, and I have a copy of this consent form. Therefore, I consent to take part in this project

**Participants Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name in Block Capitals:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Witness:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

### **Appendix 3**

#### **Anonymous Online Consent Form Template**

**Study Title:** An evaluation of a mobile application built to allow users to message each other with new, additional features.

Dr. Hyowon Lee  
Jason Boylan  
Kelan Smyth

#### **Clarification of the purpose of the study**

This study is being completed as part of a project evaluation for the CA400 module. The purpose of the study is to examine what users think of the implementation of a mobile application designed to allow users message each other using new and unique features. For the purpose of this study, a series of questions will be asked in an anonymous survey.

#### **Confirmation of particular requirements as highlighted in the Plain Language Statement**

*Participant – please complete the following (by clicking Yes/No for each question)*

<i>I have read the Plain Language Statement (or had it read to me)</i>	Yes/No
--	--------

---

### **Debriefing Sheet**

**Study Title:** An evaluation of a mobile application built to allow users to message each other with new, additional features.

**Researcher / Organisation Details:** Jason Boylan, Kelan Smyth, School of Computing, Dublin City University

Thank you for your participation in this online survey. If you have feelings of any distress or discomfort from taking part in this study or any concerns at all please do not hesitate to contact the researcher.

Your participation is greatly appreciated by the researcher. The data collected could possibly be of benefit to those looking to rent during their college term and help them make an informed decision. If you have any questions about this study, please contact the researcher as provided or the independent contact person / organisation.

#### **Survey Questions**

How would you rate the usability of the mobile application (out of 5)? 1/2/3/4/5

Did you think it was easy to navigate the application and achieve what you wanted to do? Yes/No

Did you think it was easy to send and receive messages? Yes/No

Did you like the Conversation Summary feature? Yes/No

How accurate did you think the conversation summaries were (out of 5)? 1/2/3/4/5

Did you like the Affection feature?

How accurate did you think the Affection feature was at reading your emotions? (Out of 5)

Would you continue to use this application if it was made available permanently? Yes/No

Are there any improvements you would like to see implemented? (Optional)

(Group of 3 Questions only):

Did you think the group chat feature worked as intended? Yes/No

---

<i>I understand the information provided</i>	Yes/No
<i>I understand the information provided in relation to data protection</i>	Yes/No
<i>I have received satisfactory answers to all my questions</i>	Yes/No
<i>I understand I may withdraw from the Research Study at any point</i>	Yes/No
<i>I have read and understand the arrangements to be made to protect confidentiality of data, including that confidentiality of information provided is subject to legal limitations</i>	Yes/No
<i>I have read and understand confirmations relating to any other relevant information as indicated in the PLS</i>	Yes/No
<i>I consent to participate in this research study</i>	Yes/No