**UREC2 RESEARCH ETHICS PROFORMA FOR STUDENTS UNDERTAKING LOW RISK PROJECTS WITH HUMAN PARTICIPANTS**

This form is designed to help students and their supervisors to complete an ethical scrutiny of proposed research. The University [Research Ethics Policy](https://www.shu.ac.uk/research/ethics-integrity-and-practice) should be consulted before completing the form. The initial questions are there to check that completion of the UREC 2 is appropriate for this study. The final responsibility for ensuring that ethical research practices are followed rests with the supervisor for student research.

Note that students and staff are responsible for making suitable arrangements to ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Act (GDPR). This involves informing participants about the legal basis for the research, including a link to the University research data privacy statement and providing details of who to complain to if participants have issues about how their data was handled or how they were treated (full details in module handbooks). In addition the act requires data to be kept securely and the identity of participants to be anonymized. They are also responsible for following SHU guidelines about data encryption and research data management. Information on the [Ethics Website](https://www.shu.ac.uk/research/quality/ethics-and-integrity/guidance-and-legislation).

The form also enables the University and College to keep a record confirming that research conducted has been subjected to ethical scrutiny.

The form may be completed by the student and the supervisor and/or module leader (as applicable). In all cases, it should be counter-signed by the supervisor and/or module leader, and kept as a record showing that ethical scrutiny has occurred. Some courses may require additional scrutiny. Students should retain a copy for inclusion in their research projects, and a copy should be uploaded to the relevant module Blackboard site.

Please note that it may be necessary to conduct a health and safety risk assessment for the proposed research. Further information can be obtained from the College Health and Safety Service.

**Checklist Questions to ensure that this is the correct form**

**1. Health Related Research with the NHS or Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS)or with participants unable to provide informed consent**

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| **Question** | **Yes/No** |
| 1. Does the research involve? | No |
| * Patients recruited because of their past or present use of the NHS |
| * Relatives/carers of patients recruited because of their past or present use of the NHS | No |
| * Access to data, organs or other bodily material of past or present NHS patients | No |
| * Foetal material and IVF involving NHS patients | No |
| * The recently dead in NHS premises | No |
| * Prisoners or others within the criminal justice system recruited for health-related research**\*** | No |
| * Police, court officials, prisoners or others within the criminal justice system**\*** | No |
| * Participants who are unable to provide informed consent due to their incapacity even if the project is not health related | No |
| 1. Is this a research project as opposed to service evaluation or audit?   *For NHS definitions of research etc. please see the following website*  <http://www.hra.nhs.uk/documents/2013/09/defining-research.pdf> | No |

If you have answered **YES** to questions **1 & 2** then you **MUST** seek the appropriate external approvals from the NHS, Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) under their independent Research Governance schemes. Further information is provided below.

[https://www.myresearchproject.org.uk](https://www.myresearchproject.org.uk/Signin.aspx)

**NB** College Teaching Programme Research Ethics Committees (CTPRECS) provide Independent Scientific Review for NHS or HMPPS research and initial scrutiny for ethics applications as required for university sponsorship of the research. Applicants can use the IRAS proforma and submit this initially to their CTPREC.

1. **Checks for Research with Human Participants**

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| **Question** | **Yes/No** |
| 1. Will any of the participants be vulnerable?   *Note: Vulnerable’ people include children and young people, people with learning disabilities, people who may be limited by age or sickness, people researched because of a condition they have, etc. See full definition on ethics website* | No |
| 1. Are drugs, placebos or other substances (e.g. food substances, vitamins) to be administered to the study participants or will the study involve invasive,   intrusive or potentially harmful procedures of any kind? | No |
| 1. Will tissue samples (including blood) be obtained from participants? | No |
| 1. Is pain or more than mild discomfort likely to result from the study? | No |
| 1. Will the study involve prolonged or repetitive testing? | No |
| 1. Is there any reasonable and foreseeable risk of physical or emotional harm to any of the participants?   *Note: Harm may be caused by distressing or intrusive interview questions, uncomfortable procedures involving the participant, invasion of privacy, topics relating to highly personal information, topics relating to illegal activity, or topics that are anxiety provoking, etc.* | No |
| 1. Will anyone be taking part without giving their informed consent? | No |
| 1. Is it covert research?   *Note: ‘Covert research’ refers to research that is conducted without the knowledge of participants.* | No |
| 1. Will the research output allow identification of any individual who has not given their express consent to be identified? | No |

If you have answered **YES** to any of these questions you are **REQUIRED** to complete and submit a UREC 3 or UREC4). Your supervisor will advise. If you have answered **NO** to all these questions then proceed with this form (UREC 2).

**General Details**

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| Name of student | | Joshua Sexton-Jones |
| SHU email address | | b8022626@my.shu.ac.uk |
| Course or qualification (student) | | BEng (Hons) Software Engineering |
| Name of supervisor | | Nnamdi Anyameluhor |
| Email address | | na2397@exchange.shu.ac.uk |
| Title of proposed research | | RendezVous |
| Proposed start date | | 22/10/2021 |
| Proposed end date | | 07/04/2022 |
| Background to the study and scientific rationale for undertaking it. | | RendezVous is a service for new and existing businesses to verify employee attendance at 'job sites', i.e., a specific location. Upon reaching and leaving a job site, an employee provides verification information to 'check-in' and 'check-out' respectively.  The service uses GPS data to verify an employee's location, alongside a photograph of the employee to verify their identity. A fully automated verification process is provided using facial recognition to match this photograph with their stored image; manual verification is used as a fallback if this process fails.  By the nature of working on-location, an internet connection is not a guarantee; to ensure check-ins are not lost, they can be cached on the employee's device to be submitted once a connection is restored. The check-in process is further enhanced by notifying users upon entering/leaving job sites.  RendezVous also offers integration with client systems to forward check-in data, enabling automated payroll for example. |
| Aims & research question(s) | * Produce an application for employees to easily provide verification information at a job site * Produce an application for employers to:   + Configure company job sites   + Handle manual verification   + Manage employee details, including job sites * Develop a reliable method to validate a user's location and identity * Extend the usability of the application by incorporating:   + Notifications   + Check-in caching * Implement method(s) for customers to integrate the service with their own systems | | |
| Methods to be used for: 1.recruitment of participants,  2.data collection,  3. data analysis. | Participants will ideally have experience working on-location, e.g., contracted laboring, bar/merchandise vendors at short-term events. Such individuals can be recruit from friend groups and course mates.  Data will be collected either using an online form tool, such as Google or Microsoft Forms. They also may be aided in-person by myself to clarify any usability difficulties if necessary.  Potential changes to the application will be determined by comparing responses for common ideas; each common idea will be implemented/discarded, with documented reasons for/against. | | |
| Outline the nature of the data held, details of anonymisation, storage and disposal procedures as required. | The goal is to attain personal opinions of the product, primarily concerning its ease of use; specific suggestions to change the application may also be given.  Participants will not be required to provide any details which could uniquely identify them, such as their date of birth. Alternative data will be collected instead, e.g., an age range.  These will be stored on the platform used by the form tool, e.g., a Google Sheet when using Google Forms, authenticated using my university credentials.  Changes made to the application as a result of human research will be documented with a summary of the idea, leaving no identifiable data.  Any/all research which is no longer in consideration will be deleted permanently from the platform; this also applies to any research left at the end of the project. | | |

**3. Research in Organisations**

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| **Question** | **Yes/No** |
| 1. Will the research involve working with/within an organisation (e.g. school, business, charity, museum, government department, international agency, etc.)? | No |
| 1. If you answered YES to question 1, do you have granted access to conduct the research?   *If YES, students please show evidence to your supervisor. PI should retain safely.* | N/A |
| 1. If you answered NO to question 2, is it because:    1. you have not yet asked    2. you have asked and not yet received an answer    3. you have asked and been refused access.   *Note: You will only be able to start the research when you have been granted access.* | N/A |

**4. Research with Products and Artefacts**

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| **Question** | **Yes/No** |
| 1. Will the research involve working with copyrighted documents, films, broadcasts, photographs, artworks, designs, products, programmes, databases, networks, processes, existing datasets or secure data? | Yes |
| 2. If you answered YES to question 1, are the materials you intend to use in the public domain?  *Notes: ‘In the public domain’ does not mean the same thing as ‘publicly accessible’.*   * *Information which is 'in the public domain' is no longer protected by copyright (i.e. copyright has either expired or been waived) and can be used without permission.* * *Information which is 'publicly accessible' (e.g. TV broadcasts, websites, artworks, newspapers) is available for anyone to consult/view. It is still protected by copyright even if there is no copyright notice. In UK law, copyright protection is automatic and does not require a copyright statement, although it is always good practice to provide one. It is necessary to check the terms and conditions of use to find out exactly how the material may be reused etc.*   *If you answered YES to question 1, be aware that you may need to consider other ethics codes. For example, when conducting Internet research, consult the code of the Association of Internet Researchers; for educational research, consult the Code of Ethics of the British Educational Research Association.* | Yes |
| 3. If you answered NO to question 2, do you have explicit permission to use these materials as data?  *If YES, please show evidence to your supervisor.* | N/A |
| 4. If you answered NO to question 3, is it because:  A. you have not yet asked permission  B. you have asked and not yet received and answer  C. you have asked and been refused access.  *Note You will only be able to start the research when you have been granted permission to use the specified material.* | **A/B/C** |

**Adherence to SHU policy and procedures**

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| **Personal statement** | |
| I can confirm that:   * I have read the Sheffield Hallam University Research Ethics Policy and Procedures * I agree to abide by its principles. | |
| **Student** | |
| Name: Joshua Sexton-Jones | Date: 22/10/2021 |
| Signature: | |
| **Supervisor or other person giving ethical sign-off** | |
| I can confirm that completion of this form has not identified the need for ethical approval by the FREC or an NHS, Social Care or other external REC. The research will not commence until any approvals required under Sections 3 & 4 have been received and any necessary health and  safety measures are in place. | |
| Name: | Date: |
| Signature: | |
| Additional Signature if required by course: | |
| Name: | Date: |
| Signature: | |

**Please ensure the following are included with this form if applicable, tick box to indicate:**

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|  | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Research proposal if prepared previously |  |  |  |
| Any recruitment materials (e.g. posters, letters, etc.) |  |  |  |
| Participant information sheet |  |  |  |
| Participant consent form |  |  |  |
| Details of measures to be used (e.g. questionnaires, etc.) |  |  |  |
| Outline interview schedule / focus group schedule |  |  |  |
| Debriefing materials |  |  |  |
| Health and Safety Project Safety Plan for Procedures |  |  |  |