

Ethical Approval Form: Human Research Projects

Please word-process this form,
handwritten applications will not
be accepted



This form must be completed for each piece of research activity whether conducted by academic staff, research staff, graduate students or undergraduates. The completed form must be approved by the designated authority within the Faculty.

Please complete all sections. If a section is not applicable, write N/A.

1 Name of Applicant	Adam Bowes	
	Department:	Faculty:
	Games Computing	School of Computer Science
2 Position in the University	Undergraduate Student	
3 Role in relation to this research		
4 Brief statement of main Research Question	Can robots be integrated with user friendly programming languages to enhance computer science.	
5 Brief Description of Project	<p>I aim to Create software to allow the programming language Scratch to be used to program the Thymio II robot so that it can be used to enhance computer science.</p> <p>I will research the Scratch application programming interface (API) and the Thymio II API so that they can be integrated together to create a user friendly way to program robots.</p> <p>After this I will create some materials that can be used by participants in a "robo-jam" event where they will be asked to use the software to accomplish some tasks, I will then give the attendees a questionnaire centred around their experience with the software to fill and compile and analyse the results</p>	
	Approximate Start Date:	Approximate End Date:
	23/10/2014	16/4/2015
6 Name of Principal Investigator or Supervisor	Dr Grzegorz Cielniak	
	Email address: gcielniak@lincoln.ac.uk	Telephone: 441522837398
7 Names of other researchers or student investigators involved	N/A	
8 Location(s) at which project is to be carried out	The University of Lincoln MHT building Computer Lab B (MC3204)	

9 Statement of the ethical issues involved and how they are to be addressed –including a risk assessment of the project based on the vulnerability of participants, the extent to which it is likely to be harmful and whether there will be significant discomfort.

(This will normally cover such issues as whether the risks/adverse effects associated with the project have been dealt with and whether the benefits of research outweigh the risks)

The questionnaire and tasks involved in the session will not be controversial or pose any ethical threat. However, below are some issues which may arise and the steps I will take to minimise them.

1) Informed consent

Participants should be at all times made aware of the study they are entering into and give their consent to be involved in the study. This extends to but is not exhaustive to: the purpose of the research, the content of the research and the outcome of the research.

The importance of the above shall be stated at the beginning of the study and before the results are collected so participants can make an informed decision as to whether they want to participate.

The aim of the study will be fully expressed through correspondence between myself and the participants via email. Formal consent will also be obtained through the completion of a formal consent form given to the participants during the study.

2) Privacy and Confidentiality

Protecting the privacy of the participants is important to the study as it allows participants to speak freely about the subject without any feeling that their comments will be attributed to them. To ensure they are aware that their privacy is being maintained, at the beginning of the study I will highlight that the study is confidential. This will be particularly important for the questionnaire at the end of the session.

It is also important to note that any identifying information such as year of study and previous experience shall be held only by myself and destroyed once the research data has been collected and concluded.

3) The right to withdraw

Participants may disclose information that they might decide later that they would not disclose in different environments. Therefore they will be given the option to withdraw from the study at any time, this shall be highlighted during the questionnaire part of the session.

Contact information shall be provided to the participants so that if there are any concerns after the issues after the session then they can get in contact to resolve them.

4) Protecting vulnerable participants

Participation in the session will be determined by who applies and how many people can be accommodated due to resources, however precautions will be made to ensure all participants appear able to take part in the session. If a participant appears to become distressed during the session they will not be pushed in to continuing and reminded that they are free to leave the study at any time.

5) Risk and adverse effects

I do not expect this study to create any risks or have any adverse effects on the researcher or the participants that agree to take part.

Ethical Approval From Other Bodies

10 Does this research require the approval of an external body ?

Yes ☐

No ☒

If “Yes”, please state which body:-

11 Has ethical approval already been obtained from that body ?

Yes ☐ **Please append documentary evidence to this form.**

No ☐

If “No”, please state why not:-

Please note that any such approvals must be obtained and documented before the project begins.

APPLICANT NAME

I hereby request ethical approval for the research as described above.

I certify that I have read the University's ETHICAL PRINCIPLES FOR CONDUCTING RESEARCH WITH HUMANS AND OTHER ANIMALS.

Adam Bowes

16/10/2014

Date

PRINT NAME

FOR COMPLETION BY THE CHAIR OF THE FACULTY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Please select ONE of A, B, C or D below:

☐ A. The Faculty Research Committee gives ethical approval to this research.

☐ B. The Faculty Research Committee gives conditional ethical approval to this research.

12 Please state the condition (inc. date by which condition must be satisfied if applicable)

☐ C. The Faculty Research Committee cannot give ethical approval to this research but refers the application to the University Research Ethics Committee for higher level consideration.

13 Please state the reason

☐ D. The Faculty Research Committee cannot give ethical approval to this research and recommends that the research should not proceed.

14 Please state the reason

Signature of Chair of Faculty Research Committee (or nominee)

Signed

Date