This document is also available in Welsh

Ethical approval of research projects in online programmes

There are 3 routes for review and approval:

1. RESC (Research Ethics Sub-Committee) - for staff and postgraduate research student proposals involving human subjects; all research involving animals, and all research requiring formal external approval [use the full RESC application form]
2. Staff and postgraduate research students Low Risk research [i.e. not covered by 1. above – use a Checklist and Cover Sheet form]
3. ***Research done by undergraduate and online Masters students [use a Checklist and Cover Sheet form]***

All proposals through all routes involve completing the relevant sections of the Checklist, to highlight any potential ethical risk factors.

Programme	MSc Computer Science with Big Data Analytics (ONLCDA - MSc Computer Science with Big Data Analytics)		
Module	CONL718		
Student Name	Louis Othen	Student ID	S21002027
Research Project Title	ChatGPT: The advancement of knowledge and incorporation for its users.		

I give approval for this research project to proceed, on the grounds that:

- it is consistent with the programme specification
- a suitable and sufficient risk assessment has been carried out
- the checklist has been fully completed
- it does not contain any ethical risk factors which may cause harm of any kind to research subjects, the researcher, the University or any other person or organisation
  AND/OR
  any risk factors have been clearly identified and appropriate measures put in place for their management and mitigation
- where relevant, appropriate and robust plans have been made to gain informed consent from prospective research subjects
- it is not required to be submitted for approval to the Research Ethics Sub-Committee

Project Tutor Name	Subrahmaniam Krishnan-Harihara		
Signature	*Subrahmaniam Krishnan-Harihara*	Date	04/07/2023

Significant changes
I approve the changes proposed by the student, on the grounds specified above.

Project Tutor Name			
Signature		Date	

Notes:

1. This form must be completed before primary data collection / experimental work begins.
2. The Checklist which follows must be fully completed.
3. The person approving the research must be satisfied that any ethical risk factors have been clearly identified and appropriate measures put in place for their management and mitigation.
4. This signed form should be filed with the student's project proposal.

5. The University's Code of Practice on Ethical Standards for Research is available at: https://moodle.glyndwr.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=26703

Glyndŵr University - Checklist for ethical approval of a research project

Checklist 1 – to be completed for ALL proposals [answer ALL questions]

	Yes	No
1. Does the research comply with the University's Code of Practice on Ethical Standards for Research? [https://moodle.glyndwr.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=26703]	X	
2. Does this research comply with the requirements of any relevant professional body's code of conduct? [If Not Applicable', mark 'Yes']	X	
3. Has a suitable and sufficient risk assessment been carried out (including potential harm to the researcher)?	X	
4. Will the study require the co-operation of a 'gatekeeper' for initial permission / access to the people, animals, places, data, or other resources required for the research?		X
5. Does this research require the formal approval of an external body[1]?		X
6. Could the research have an impact on people living or working in the immediate locality?		X
7. Will anyone other than the researcher (the applicant) and the research supervisor (if relevant) have access to the raw data produced by the research?		X
8. Is there a sponsor?		X
9. Is there a collaborating organisation?		X
10. Will any research be undertaken outside UK legal jurisdiction?		X
11. Will your research involve investigation of or engagement with terrorist or violent extremist groups?		X
12. Will your research and its findings have any potential in relation to furthering extremist ideology or causes and/or will any process or artefact produced have potential to be used to further extremist ends?		X

Does the proposed research:-

	Yes	No
Directly involve people? (go to Checklist 2)	X	
Directly involve animals or animal by-products? (go to Checklist 3)		X
Have a potential impact on the environment? (go to Checklist 4)		X

Checklist 2 Research directly involving people [answer ALL questions]	Yes	No
13. Will you use Social Media to interact with participants?	X	
14. Does the study involve NHS patients, staff or premises?[1]		X
15. Does the study involve participants who are particularly vulnerable (e.g. children, victims of crime, homeless, mental illness etc.)? Please read carefully the Code of Practice.		X
16. Does the study involve participants who would find it difficult to give informed consent (e.g. children, people with learning difficulties)? Please read carefully the Code of Practice.		X
17. Is a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check required?		X
18. Will it be necessary for participants to take part in the study without their knowledge or consent at the time? (e.g. covert observation of people in non-public places)		X
19. Will the study require any deception of participants?		X

[1] If so, the proposal must have full RESC approval before the applicant applies to the external body. **'NHS patients' means people invited to take part in the research because of that status (now or previously)**.

Checklist 2 Research directly involving people [answer ALL questions]	Yes	No
20. Will the study involve discussion of topics which the participants may find sensitive? (e.g. sexual activity, personal drug use, income etc.)		X
21. Are there cultural or religious issues associated with the research?		X
22. Will financial inducements (other than reasonable expenses and compensation for time) be offered to participants?		X
23. Are drugs, placebos or other substances (e.g. food substances, vitamins, Chinese medicine) to be administered to the study participants?[2]		X
24. Will the study involve invasive, intrusive or potentially harmful procedures of any kind? (e.g. Acupuncture, fitness testing)		X
25. Will blood or tissue samples be obtained from participants?		X
26. Does the proposed research involve human tissue or human embryos?		X
27. Is pain or more than mild discomfort to participants likely to result from the study?		X
28. Could the study induce psychological distress or anxiety or cause harm or negative consequences beyond the risks encountered in normal life?		X
29. Will the study involve prolonged or repetitive testing?		X

Checklist 3: Research directly involving animals [answer ALL questions]	Yes	No
30. Does the research involve any procedure that may have the potential effect of causing the animal(s) pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm? (regulated procedures under the terms of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act)		
31. Does the research involve a series of otherwise non-regulated procedures that together or cumulatively may cause that animal pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm?		
32. Does the research involve vertebrate animals or “Octopus Vulgaris” (protected animals under the terms of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act)3		
33. Does the research involve using any animal by-products or tissue?		
34. Does the research involve any procedure or intervention on the animal(s) that is not part of its/their normal management practice?		
35. Does the research involve movement of animals from one place to another?		
36. Does the research involve animals in the wild?		

Checklist 4: Research having a potential impact on the environment [answer ALL questions]	Yes	No
37. Do you have legal access / permission to work on the proposed site?		
38. Does the site have any legal designation (e.g. SSSI)?		
39. Could the research have an impact on the environment? (e.g. air / land / water contamination, damage to animal habitats)?		
40. Does the research involve working with any Genetically Modified Organisms? (e.g. GMOs in animal feeds)?		
41. Will you be importing plants, plant material, pests, soil or growing medium into the UK?		

[2] Clinical Trials are not covered by Glyndŵr University insurance and such studies will also need MHRA registration and to conform with EU Clinical Trials Directive (2001)

[3] The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 is available at https://moodle.glyndwr.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=26703