

**School of Computing Science Ethics Committee  
University of Glasgow**

**Request for Ethical Approval**

This form is to be used by 3<sup>rd</sup> year, 4<sup>th</sup> year, MSci, MRes, and taught MSc students in the Department of Computing Science whose projects entail human participation and which do not conform to any one of the criteria on the project ethics checklist form (<http://www.dcs.gla.ac.uk/ethics/projects-form.pdf>). Students enrolled for an MSc by Research or a PhD, and members of academic or research staff should submit their request for ethics approval to the Faculty Ethics Committee (see <http://ethics.ims.gla.ac.uk/>)

The form should be completed and returned by email to Prof Stephen Brewster ([stephen@dcg.gla.ac.uk](mailto:stephen@dcg.gla.ac.uk)) to whom all enquires or requests for advice should be directed.

All sections of this form must be completed.

Before completing this form, please read the British Psychological Society's Code of Conduct (available on <http://www.dcs.gla.ac.uk/ethics/>). The relevant sections of the code are noted against questions in this form.

Copies of the participant information form and consent form should be submitted together with this form (BPS § 3&6).

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Year level (3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, MSci, MRes, MSc): 4<sup>th</sup>

Supervisor: Timothy Storer

Project title: Source Code Clippy (Scclippy) - IDE Micro-Task Recommender Plugin

1. Describe the basic purposes of the proposed research:

The goal of this project is to implement a system that gives the user/developer snippets of code from Stack Overflow and evaluate its usability. There are a lot of cases where the programmer would benefit from getting relevant code – for example, either because he is new to the Java programming language, or could not remember the correct syntax for completing a certain task.

The system was chosen to be implemented as a plugin where developers manage their projects (and specifically for the JetBrains IntelliJ Integrated Development Environment). Due to having different search options, it is of particular interest to see how participants will make use of the different features of the plugin as well as general questions such as how frequently the plugin will be used.

2. Describe the design of your experiment (e.g. conditions, number of participants, procedure, equipment) (BPS §2&8):

The participants will go through the following steps:

1. The participants should have a version of IntelliJ installed on their machine.
2. They will install the plugin from the JetBrains plugin repository.
3. The participants will be required to use the plugin for a time period they choose.
4. They will optionally provide feedback by first reading and completing the participant consent form. Afterwards, they will answer questions about the usability of the plugin. Finally, they will submit there are answers if they are willing to.

3. Describe how the procedures affect the participants

Installing software is a risk. However, the plugin does not contain malicious code – its primary function is to query servers and that is like usual web browsing.