**OFFICE USE: - -**

**University of Westminster**

**University Research Ethics Committee**

**Application for Research Ethics**

**PART A**

| **Section 1 – PROJECT AND APPLICANT DETAILS** |
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| * 1. **Project Title:** Reviewly |
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| * 1. **Applicant Details** | | |
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| **Name:**  Sashminda Iranga Withanage | **University Email Address:** sashminda.2019586@iit.ac.lk | |
| **Contact Address:** Oval view apartments, Rajagiriya | **Telephone Number:**  +94 77 66 88 325 | |
| **Faculty:** Faculty of computing |  | |
| **Please check the relevant box:**    **Undergraduate** Yes **Postgraduate:**  **MPhil/PhD Student:**  **Staff:** | | |
| **I confirm I have read the *University’s Code of Practice Governing the Ethical Conduct of Research*** | | * YES NO |
| **1.3 Supervisor/Dean of Faculty/Faculty Research Director details**  Please note that all applicants with a supervisor(s) must ensure that the supervisor signs the declaration at the bottom of this page if completing Part A only or in **Section 10.3** if completing Part B  All **staff** must ensure that their Dean of Faculty, or Faculty Research Director (or nominee), as appropriate, signs the declaration at the bottom of this page if completing Part A only or in **Section 10.3** if completing Part B | | |
| **Name:** Mr. Deshan Sumanathilake | **University Email Address:** deshan.s@iit.ac.lk | |
| **Faculty:** Faculty of Computing    **Sign** : Deshan Sumanathilake | **Telephone Number:** +94 76 149 0852 | |

| **PART A (Continued)** |
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| **Section 2 – Project Details** |
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| **2.1** Please provide a description of the background with references to relevant literature (250 words maximum):  Natural language processing can be taken as a secondary field in computer linguistics. NLP is mainly relied on data and computations such as machine learning, probability and statistics (Otter, Medina, and Kalita, 2021).  Sentiment analysis is often performed on textual data to get various outputs such as customer needs, help businesses to monitor brands and to summarise customer feedback.  Although there were many studies done on customer review analysis there was no available research for Sinhala-English mixed review analysis. Only a handful researches available on related to Sinhala language on NLP. It will be beneficial to apply these concepts to Sinhala-English mixed code data. It will positively affect domain as well as the stakeholders. |
| **2.2.** Please provide a brief description and the aims of your study (250 words maximum):  *The aim of this research is to design, develop and evaluate a system that analyze given user reviews and provide customers with a summary which will help in decision making in Sinhala English mixed scenarios.*  Further elaborating on this aim, this research project will produce a system that is capable of analysing customer reviews of a certain product in Sinhala-English mixed code cases. The planned system will allow users to add previous user review or reviews in bulk and get a summary as a output based on those reviews. In order to achieve this aim NLP techniques, deep learning, data mining and available literature will be studied.  The required knowledge will be further studied using available literature and the performance  of the product will be evaluated. The knowledge obtained will be used in developing the core  components and achieving the research objectives. The author of this research will be publishing a research article based on the findings in the Sinhala-English code mixed data. |
| **2.3.** Please outline the design and methodology of your study (include details of the selection and recruitment of participants (if any) and details of any invasive (e.g. blood samples, inhalation/ingestion of food and/or non-food products (in abnormally higher or lower levels than normal or a different form), or intrusive (e.g. questionnaires, focus groups, interviews, etc.) procedures [attach extra information as necessary] (400 words maximum in total):  SSADM was chosen as the design methodology for this research project.Since this project includes experimenting on a trial and error basis SSADM was selected. It is highly practical and offers reusability for components which can be helpful. |
| **2.4**. Timescales  Start Date (DD/MM/YY):    26/10/2022  Estimated duration of work:  Two semesters / One academic year |

| **Section 3 - RISK OF HARM** | | | | |
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| **NOTE 1: Where indicated below applicants should check if the research will require ethical approval from a National Research Ethics Committee via the** [**Integrated Research Application System**](https://www.myresearchproject.org.uk/) **(IRAS) -** [**nres.queries@nhs.net**](mailto:nres.queries@nhs.net)**.-** [**http://www.hra-decisiontools.org.uk/ethics/**](http://www.hra-decisiontools.org.uk/ethics/)  **NOTE 2: The University of Westminster holds a Human Tissue Authority Licence – This licence is specifically for tissue stored at 115 New Cavendish Street in accordance with the terms of the licence – Advice must be obtained from the University Human Tissue Designated Individual (** [**N.Presneau@westminster.ac.uk**](mailto:N.Presneau@westminster.ac.uk) **)** | | | | |
| **RISK OF HARM (to self, colleagues, participants, environment or animals)** | | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| **1** | Will any pain or more than mild discomfort result from the study? | * ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **2** | Could the study induce any psychological stress or anxiety or cause harm or negative consequences beyond the risks encountered in normal life? | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **3** | Will the study involve prolonged or repetitive physical or psychological testing of human participants that may put someone at risk, e.g. use of treadmill? | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **4** | Will the study involve raising sensitive topics (e.g. sexual activity, drug use, revelation of medical history, bereavement, illegal activities, etc.)? | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **5** | Does your work involve any “relevant material” containing human cells (e.g. blood, urine, saliva, body tissues but NOT established cell-lines) from living or deceased persons (Such work must take account of the Human Tissue Act)? – See Note 1 and 2 above. | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **6** | Will DNA samples be taken from human participants (Such work must take account of the Human Tissue Act)? – See Note 1 and 2 above. | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **7** | Does your study raise any issues of personal safety for you or other researchers or participants involved in the project (Especially relevant if taking place outside working hours or off University premises)? | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **8** | Does your study involve deliberately misleading the participants (e.g. deception, covert observation)? | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **9** | Does your work involve administration of a food or non-food substance of a different type from or in abnormally higher or lower amounts than normal or one that is known to cause allergic reaction(s) or potential psychological stress? | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **10** | Does your study involve issues relating to personal and/or sensitive data? | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **PARTICIPANTS (and/or their records/associated data)**  **Does your work involve any of the following:** | | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| **11** | Human participants in a health and/or social care setting (e.g. patients, those attending day centres, community care, rehabilitation centres, etc., including in the NHS, other public, private and/or voluntary sectors)? – See Note 1 above. | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **12** | Human participants who may be deemed vulnerable (e.g. children, people in poverty and/or with physiological or psychological impairments, persons attending rehabilitation centres, persons in easily identifiable positions that could be subject to victimisation, etc.)? | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **13** | Expectant or new mothers? | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **14** | Refugees/Asylum seekers? | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **15** | Minors (under the age of 18 years old)? | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **16** | Participants in custody (e.g. prisoners or arrestees)? – See Note 1 above. | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **17** | Participants with impaired mental capacity (e.g. severe mental illness, brain damage, sectioned under Mental Health Act, lowered or reduced sense of consciousness)? – See Note 1 above. | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **18** | Animals (or animal tissue). | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **INFORMATION TO PARTICIPANTS** | | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| **19** | Will you provide participants with a Participant Information Sheet prior to obtaining informed consent which can be taken away by the participant? | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **20** | Will you describe the procedures to participants in advance, so that they are informed about what to expect? | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **21** | Will you obtain informed consent for participation (normally written)? OR in the case of using personal data previously acquired was consent given for the reuse of the data for other research purposes? | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **22** | Will you tell participants that they may withdraw from the research at any time and for any reason without any impact on their care, service provision etc.? | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **23** | Will you give participants the option of omitting questions they do not want to answer? | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **24** | Will you tell participants that their data will be treated as confidential and that, if published, it will not be identifiable as theirs? | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **25** | Will you offer feedback to participants at the end of their participation, upon request (e.g. give them a brief explanation of the study and its outcomes)? | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |
| **26** | Has external funding or collaboration been applied for/received, which requires institutional ethical consideration or approval? | ☐ | ☐ | * ~~☐~~ |

**Useful links:**

* <http://www.screc.org.uk/> - Social Care Research Ethics Committee
* <http://www.hra-decisiontools.org.uk/ethics/> - Human Research Authority decision tool to identify if research needs National Research Ethics Committee approval
* <http://www.nres.nhs.uk/applications/guidance/governance-and-directives/?entryid62=131341> – Governance Arrangements for Research Ethics Committees
* <http://www.nres.nhs.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?alId=134016> - NRES algorithm “Does my project require review by a Research Ethics Committee”?
* <http://www.hta.gov.uk/policiesandcodesofpractice/codesofpractice.cfm> - Human Tissue Authority Code of Practice
* <http://www.hta.gov.uk> – Human Tissue Authority website
* <http://www.rsclearn.mrc.ac.uk/MRC_HumanTissueAct/player.html> - Medical Research Council online training course for Human Tissue Act.

**What to do next:**

* **If you have answered NO to questions 1-18 (inclusive) and YES to questions 19-25 (inclusive)**, you do not need to complete the Full Research Ethics Approval Form (Part B). Please keep this form for your records, and do not submit to **Faculty Research Ethics Committee** (FREC) unless you require ethical consideration of your study, regardless of ethical implications, by an external body (question 26 has been answered YES). **A list of Faculty contacts is below.**
* **If you have answered YES to any of the questions 1-18 (inclusive) or NO to any of the questions 19-25** the Full Research Ethics Approval Form (Part B) MUST be submitted including Cover Sheet, Part A and Part B of the application form plus any required supplementary documents to the Secretary of the relevant Faculty Research Ethics Committee (FREC). **A list of Faculty contacts is below.**
* If you are applying for external Ethical Approval, please send a *copy* of the Conditions/Approvals letters to the **University Research Ethics Committee** (UREC) Secretary (this may include the original ethical application(s)). Where the external ethics committee/body has equal standing or primary jurisdiction, e.g. another University Research Ethics Committee or a National Research Ethics Committee, any approval will normally be received and noted by the University of Westminster Research Ethics Committee and further consideration may not be required. Where the external committee does not have equal or higher standing than the University Committee then the full ethical approval process at the university may still be required. Additional institutional compliance issues may need consideration by UREC.
* All Applications (dated, signed and authorised) and supplementary information or External Approvals should be sent to the University Research Ethics Committee (UREC) Secretary in *electronic format with a version number, document name and date and the Principal Investigator (or Undergraduate/Postgraduate Taught Student) name. On receipt your application will be issued a unique reference number*
* All new Applications should be submitted to a Research Ethics Committee (FREC or UREC) Secretary a minimum of 10 working days in advance of the Committee meeting date (earlier submission is recommended so that applications can be pre-vetted and obvious issues addressed before the application is considered by the Committee).

**Contact details:**

| **Faculty** | **Chair** | **Secretary** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Architecture and the Built Environment** | **[Professor Nick Bailey](mailto:baileyn@westminster.ac.uk)** | **[Colette Davis](mailto:C.Davis@westminster.ac.uk)** |
| **Media Arts and Design** | **[Dr Anthony Mcnicholas](mailto:mcnichc@westminster.ac.uk)** | **[Fauzia Ahmad](mailto:f.ahmad6@westminster.ac.uk)** |
| **Science and Technology** | **[Dr John Colwell](mailto:j.colwell@westminster.ac.uk)** | **[Mandy Walton](mailto:m.j.walton@westminster.ac.uk)** |
| **Science and Technology Psychology Department Sub Committee** | **[Dr Laura Boubert](mailto:l.i.boubert@westminster.ac.uk)** | **TBC** |
| **Social Sciences and Humanity** | **[Professor Marco Roscini](mailto:m.roscini@westminster.ac.uk)** | **[Victoria Grey-Edwards](mailto:v.greyedwards@westminster.ac.uk)** |
| **Westminster Business School** | **[Petar Sudar](mailto:C.Davis@westminster.ac.uk)** | **[Haydn Worley](mailto:h.worley@westminster.ac.uk)** |
| **University Research Ethics Committee** | **Professor Graham Megson** | [**Huzma Kelly**](mailto:h.kelly01@westminster.ac.uk) |

**For Use in Academic Year: 2015/16**

Author: Dr Bob Odle - Version: 2013/14v1.2 (updated August 2016)