



Dublin City University  
School of Computing

## APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF AN UNDERGRADUATE OR TAUGHT MASTERS PROJECT INVOLVING **HUMAN PARTICIPANTS**

**Please read the following information carefully before completing and submitting your application.**

- **Applications must be submitted via the project dashboard**
- **Student applicants must include their supervisor as the Principal Investigator (PI).** The form should be checked, approved and signed in digital form by the supervisor in advance of submission.
- **The application should consist of one electronic file only, in PDF format,** with an electronic signature from the PI (the project supervisor) and yourselves, the students. The completed application must incorporate all supplementary documentation, especially those being given to the proposed participants.
- **All sections of the application form must be answered as instructed and within the word limits given.**

Applications must be completed on the form; answers in the form of attachments will not be accepted, except where indicated. No hardcopy applications will be accepted. **The project must not commence until approval has been received from the School Research Ethics Committee.**

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	No-Limit Texas Hold'em Poker AI
<b>PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S)</b> <i>The Principal Investigator is the project supervisor and s/he has primary responsibility for the project.</i>	Dr. Mark Roantree
<b>START AND END DATE</b>	05/10/2020 - 01/06/2021
<b>STUDENT NAME(S), COURSE AND YEAR (E.G. EC4)</b>	Immanuel Idelegbagbon, Stefano Puzzuoli, CASE4
<b>LEVEL OF RISK</b> <i>Please confirm that this project requires notification only</i>	YES

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## 1. ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

### 1.1 WILL THE PROJECT BE UNDERTAKEN ON-SITE AT DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY?

YES or NO
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No
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If NO, state details of the off-campus location – provide details of the approval to gain access to that location in section 2.7.

The project will be undertaken at the residences of the students and users involved. All activities will be hosted and completed remotely with each individual at their own residence of choice.
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### DECLARATION BY PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR / SUPERVISOR

*The information contained herein is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, accurate. I have read the University's current research ethics guidelines, and accept responsibility for the conduct of the procedures set out in the attached application in accordance with the form guidelines, the REC guidelines (<https://www.dcu.ie/researchsupport/researchethics.shtml>), the University's policy on Conflict of Interest, Code of Good Research Practice and any other condition laid down by the Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee. I have attempted to identify all risks related to the project that may arise in conducting this project and acknowledge my obligations and the rights of the participants.*

*If there exists any affiliation or financial interest for researcher(s) in this project or its outcomes or any other circumstances which might represent a perceived, potential or actual conflict of interest this should be declared in accordance with Dublin City University policy on Conflicts of Interest.*

*I and my co-investigators and/or supporting staff have the appropriate qualifications, experience and facilities to conduct the project set out in the attached application and to deal with any emergencies and contingencies related to the project that may arise. Supervisor(s) signature(s) are required as evidence that they have read and approve the submission.*

#### **Please note:**

1. Any amendments to the original approved proposal must receive prior School Ethics Committee approval.
2. As a condition of approval investigators are required to document and report immediately to the School of Computing Ethics Committee any adverse events, any issues which might negatively impact on the conduct of the project and/or any complaint from a participant relating to their participation in the study

#### **Electronic Signature(s):**

Principal investigator / Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ 

Print Name(s) here: \_\_\_\_\_ Prof Mark Roantree \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_15-Feb-2021

#### **I/We, the students on this proposal, have read and approve this submission**

Student(s) signature(s): Immanuel Idelegbagbon, Stefamo Puzzuoli

Print Name(s) here: Immanuel Idelegbagbon, Stefamo Puzzuoli

Date: 15/02/2021

## 2. PROJECT OUTLINE

### 2.1 LAY DESCRIPTION, AIMS & JUSTIFICATION, METHODOLOGY (up to 100 words)

Please outline, in terms that any non-expert would understand, what your project is about, including what participants will be required to do. Please explain any technical terms or discipline-specific phrases. State the aims and significance of the project.

This project consists of an easy to use web application that allows users to test their Texas Hold'em Poker skills against one or more Artificial Intelligence Agents in a game of No-Limit Texas Hold'em Poker. The Agents will learn from their opponents' behaviours and implement strategies to counteract their actions in order to maximise their own winnings. Participants will be required to make use of our Web application, playing games of Poker against our AI Agents allowing us to evaluate the Agents' performances. Additionally, our users will also provide feedback on the performances and UX.

### 2.2 PARTICIPANT PROFILE

List and very briefly describe each participant group where applicable. For instance, participant group 1 will consist of..., participant group 2 will consist of... etc. Provide the number, age range and source of participants. Please provide a justification of your proposed sample size.

The sample size will consist of 12 participants. The participants will consist of No-Limit Texas Hold'em Poker players with varying technical backgrounds. We feel that this size will be adequate to represent different varieties of players while still being manageable in the limited amount of time we have. The participants will be adults in the age range of 18-40.

### 2.3 PARTICIPANT RECRUITMENT

Please provide specific details as to how you will be recruiting participants. How will people be informed that you are doing this research? How will they be approached and asked if they are willing to participate? If you are mailing or phoning people, please explain how you have obtained their names and contact details. If a recruitment advertisement is to be used, please ensure you attach a copy to this application (Approx. 100 words).

The participants will be recruited via private messages and/or email. We have recruited them between our friends and acquaintances so their phone numbers and emails have been provided to us by them directly.

### 2.4I IS IT LIKELY THAT ANY PARTICIPANTS COULD BE CONSIDERED POTENTIALLY VULNERABLE?

Are some or all participants vulnerable in any way? (e.g by virtue of the group they belong to, people who have undergone traumatic or adverse emotional events, people with diminished cognitive ability, power relations between students and participants etc.)?

YES or NO

NO

If Yes, please state and describe what this vulnerability (or vulnerabilities) is and justify why this research is being done with such participants

### 2.5 WILL THE IDENTITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS BE PROTECTED?

YES or NO

YES

If NO, please explain why

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO 2.5, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

### 2.6 HOW WILL THE ANONYMITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS BE RESPECTED?

Please bear in mind that where the sample size is very small, it may be impossible to guarantee anonymity/confidentiality of participant identity. Participants involved in such projects need to be advised of this limitation in the Plain Language Statement/Information Sheet. If you intend to fully anonymize the data, please provide details

To preserve anonymity and confidentiality, we will be recording the data associating it to pseudonyms (fictitious names). In this manner, names and any other identifying information remains anonymous.

## 2.7 LEGAL LIMITATIONS TO DATA CONFIDENTIALITY

Participants need to be made aware that confidentiality of information provided cannot always be guaranteed by researchers and can only be protected within the limitations of the law - i.e., it is possible for data to be subject to subpoena, freedom of information claim or mandated reporting by some professions. This information should be included in your Plain Language Statement and Informed Consent Form. Depending on the project proposal and academic discipline, you may need to state additional specific limitations.

State how and where participants will be informed of these limitations

Regarding the focus groups, before any questions and discussions begin, the moderator will read a section at the beginning to communicate to the users the risks that can be encountered with their data. Users will be informed that the information by them provided will be fully protected by the researchers, but only within the limitations of the law.

## 2.8(a) EXPLAIN HOW PARTICIPANTS ARE TO BE RECRUITED

Please provide specific details as to how you will be recruiting participants. How will people be informed that you are doing this research? How will they be approached and asked if they are willing to participate? If you are e-mailing, mailing or phoning people, please explain how you have obtained their names and contact details. If a recruitment advertisement is to be used, please ensure you attach a copy to this application.

The participants will be recruited via private messages and/or email. We have recruited them between our friends and acquaintances so their phone numbers and emails have been provided to us by them directly.

## 2.8(b) CHILD PARTICIPANTS (anyone under 18 years old)

If your participants include children, you **must** confirm that you are in compliance with the research specific guidelines as detailed in "Keeping Children Safe - Policies and Procedures supporting Child Protection at DCU" - available at: [https://www4.dcu.ie/sites/default/files/policy/157%20-%20child\\_protection\\_handbook\\_rev1%282%29%281%29.pdf](https://www4.dcu.ie/sites/default/files/policy/157%20-%20child_protection_handbook_rev1%282%29%281%29.pdf)

Please indicate your compliance with the following guidelines:	Mark here
We confirm that we have read and agree to act in accordance with the DCU Child Protection policy and procedures	
We confirm that we have put in place safeguards for the children participating in the project	
We confirm that we have supports in place for children who may disclose current or historical abuse (whether or not this is the focus of the project)	

## 2.9 PLEASE EXPLAIN WHEN, HOW, WHERE, AND TO WHOM RESULTS WILL BE DISSEMINATED, INCLUDING WHETHER PARTICIPANTS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH ANY INFORMATION AS TO THE FINDINGS OR OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT ?

The results will be shared with the developers of the project. The results of the focus groups will be kept electronically but all information associated to the participants will be anonymised, thus the participants will not be able to retrieve this data. The data will be then destroyed at the end of the academic year.

## 2.10 ARE OTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED TO GAIN ACCESS TO ANOTHER LOCATION, ORGANISATION, SCHOOL ETC.?

YES or NO

NO

If YES, please specify from whom and attach a copy of the approval documentation. If this is not yet available, please explain when this will be obtained.

### 3. RISK AND RISK MANAGEMENT

#### 3.1 EXPLAIN AND JUSTIFY THE STATED LEVEL OF RISK TO PARTICIPANTS

*You must provide a justification that the stated level of risk and its corresponding level of review is notification only and not Full Committee or Expedited, as indicated on the cover page of your application. Note that the level of risk may be influenced by the vulnerability of the research group, the methods employed and the nature of the project itself. For further information on risk levels, please refer to the Levels of Review information on the website: <https://www.dcu.ie/researchsupport/researchethics.shtml>*

The level of risk that is associated with this project is low as it involves humans as participants. None of their personal data will be stored. Social science methodologies will be used such as focus groups, which will not have any personal effects or potential risks to the participants.

#### 3.2 POTENTIAL RISKS TO PARTICIPANTS AND RISK MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

*Identify, as far as possible, all potential risks to participants (physical, psychological, social, legal, economic, etc.), associated with the proposed project. Will your project involve deception, investigation of participants involved in illegal activities, performance of any acts which might diminish the self-esteem of participants or cause them to experience embarrassment, regret or depression? Please explain what risk management procedures will be put in place to minimise these risks.*

There are no potential risks to any of the participants.

#### 3.3 ARE THERE LIKELY TO BE ANY BENEFITS (DIRECT OR INDIRECT) TO PARTICIPANTS FROM THIS RESEARCH?

YES or NO

NO

*If YES, provide details*

#### 3.4 ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC RISKS TO YOURSELVES IN CARRYING OUT THIS PROJECT?

*Examples include use of dangerous materials, asking certain types of questions, The project being undertaken in certain locations, researchers working alone in isolated areas, etc.*

YES or NO

NO

*If YES, please describe and explain what risk management procedures will be put in place to minimise these risks*

#### 3.5 DEALING WITH ADVERSE/UNEXPECTED OUTCOMES

*Please describe what measures/protocols you have put in place in the event that there are any unexpected outcomes or adverse effects to participants arising from involvement in the project.*

There are no foreseeable risks.

#### 3.6 SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPANTS

*Depending on risks to participants you may need to consider having additional support for participants during/after the study. Consider whether your project would require additional support, e.g., external counselling available to participants. Please advise what support will be available.*

There are no foreseeable risks to participating in this project

#### 3.7 HOW WILL THE CONDUCT OF THE PROJECT BE MONITORED?

Please explain how the principal investigator will monitor the conduct of the project (especially where several people are involved in recruiting or interviewing, administering procedures, etc.) to ensure that it conforms with the procedures set out in this application. In the case of student projects please give details of how the supervisor(s) will monitor the conduct of the project.

Regular communication and project updates and progressions will be submitted to the supervisor from the researchers. Regular feedback will be supplied by the supervisor.

**3.8 DO YOU PROPOSE TO OFFER PAYMENTS OR INCENTIVES TO PARTICIPANTS?**

YES or NO

NO

If YES, please provide further details

**3.9 DO ANY OF THE RESEARCHERS ON THIS PROJECT HAVE A PERSONAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, FINANCIAL, POLITICAL, IDEOLOGICAL, OR COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN ITS OUTCOME THAT MIGHT INFLUENCE THE INTEGRITY OF THE PROJECT OR BIAS THE CONDUCT OR REPORTING OF THE PROJECT, OR UNDULY DELAY OR OTHERWISE AFFECT THEIR PUBLICATION?**

YES or NO

NO

If YES, please specify how this conflict of interest will be addressed

#### 4. PERSONAL DATA - COMPLIANCE WITH THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

Applicant declaration:

0	I understand that the proposed project, as set out in this form, is to be carried out by me in my capacity as a student of Dublin City University.	YES or NO	YES
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##### What does “Personal Data” mean?

Personal data is any information about a living person, where that person is identified or could be identified, either from the data itself or when it is combined with other data.

Personal Data is defined in [Article 4\(1\) of the GDPR](#) and can include, but is not limited to the following: hard-copy information (e.g. files, records); electronic information (e.g. databases, online survey returns); written information; consent declarations, interview notes, still or moving images; audio & visual recordings; IP addresses; an individual's handwriting; clinical or medical data; diagnostic or other clinical imaging; etc.

Further information is available from the [DCU Data Protection Unit](#)

#### 4.1 ASSESSING DATA PROTECTION RISKS & REQUIREMENTS

##### Note 1: What does ‘Minor’ and ‘Vulnerable Individual’ mean?

A **minor** is defined as an individual below 18 years of age. Where the processing relates to ‘electronic marketing’ the age limit is reduced to 16 years. A **vulnerable individual** may be anyone who is unable to consent to, or oppose, the processing of his or her personal data for any reason. Both of these are of particular importance if the project compels the provision of data from individuals.

##### Note 2: What does ‘large scale processing’ mean?

The GDPR does not define what constitutes large-scale. EU guidance recommends that the following factors, in particular, be considered when determining whether the processing is carried out on a large scale:

- the number of data subjects (either as a specific number or proportion of the relevant population);
- the volume of data and/or the range of different data items being processed;
- the duration, or permanence, of the data processing activity; &
- the geographical extent of the processing activity.

Examples of large-scale processing include, but are not limited to:

- processing of patient data in the regular course of business by a hospital;
- processing of travel data of individuals using a public transport system (e.g. tracking via travel cards);
- processing of real time geo-location data of customers of an international fast food chain for statistical purposes by a processor specialised in these activities;
- processing of customer data in the regular course of business by an insurance company or a bank;
- processing of personal data for behavioural advertising by a search engine; &
- processing of data (content, traffic, location) by telephone or internet service providers.

Examples that do **not** constitute large-scale processing include, but are not limited to:

- processing of patient data by an individual physician; and
- processing of personal data relating to criminal convictions and offences by an individual lawyer.

#### A. Applicant Data Protection Assessment Questionnaire – Part I

1	Does your project include living human subjects?	YES or NO	YES
2	Does your project include the use of any information (i.e. ‘Personal Data’) relating to an identified, or identifiable, person?	YES or NO	NO

<b>3</b>	Does your project include the use of identifiers such as: a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier, or other similar identifiers?	<b>YES or NO</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>4</b>	Does your project include the use of Personal Data specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of any living individual?	<b>YES or NO</b>	<b>NO</b>

If you answered 'Yes' to one or more of Questions 1-4 above, please continue to Part II below (otherwise proceed to the next section of this form). You should also consult with your Supervisor / Principal Investigator to ensure adequate Data Protection compliance measures are in place.

B. Applicant Data Protection Assessment Questionnaire – Part II			
<b>5(a)</b>	Does your project include the use of Personal Data of individuals which reveals any of the attributes or characteristics below? If 'Yes,' please indicate which will be used in your project ( <b>tick all that apply</b> ):	<b>YES or NO</b>	<b>NO</b>
	<i>racial or ethnic origin</i>	<b>YES or NO</b>	....
	<i>political opinions</i>	<b>YES or NO</b>	....
	<i>religious or philosophical beliefs</i>	<b>YES or NO</b>	....
	<i>trade union membership</i>	<b>YES or NO</b>	....
	<i>genetic data</i>	<b>YES or NO</b>	....
	<i>biometric data</i>	<b>YES or NO</b>	....
	<i>data concerning health</i>	<b>YES or NO</b>	....
	<i>data concerning a natural person's sex life or sexual orientation</i>	<b>YES or NO</b>	....
<b>5(b)</b>	Does your project include the use of Personal Data relating to minors or vulnerable individuals? (See <b>Note 1</b> , below)	<b>YES or NO</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>6</b>	Does your project include the use of Personal Data of individuals relating to their criminal convictions and/or offences?	<b>YES or NO</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>7</b>	Does your project include large-scale processing of personal data relating to living individuals? <i>This may include: a wide range or large volume of personal data; processing which takes place over a large geographical area; or where a large number of people are affected (e.g. over 100 individuals); or where the processing is extensive or has long-lasting effects. (See Note 2, below)</i>	<b>YES or NO</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>8</b>	Does your project include any form of automated processing of personal data, used to evaluate certain personal aspects relating to a living individual? <i>In particular, to analyse or predict aspects concerning that person's performance at work, economic situation, health, personal preferences, interests, reliability, behaviour, location or movements</i>	<b>YES or NO</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>9</b>	Does your project include any partners which are third parties outside of DCU? <i>e.g. Research partners, third party software providers or other providers such as translation or transcription services, etc.</i>	<b>YES or NO</b>	<b>NO</b>



10 (a)	Does your project involve the sharing or processing of Personal Data outside the EU or the EEA? <i>i.e. the EEA is the European Economic Area (the EU plus Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland)</i>	YES or NO	NO
10 (b)	If 'Yes', please state which non-EU or EEA country is involved:		
11	Does the project require the matching or combining of separate datasets of information on individuals in a way that would exceed their reasonable expectations of privacy? <i>An example would be combining mobile phone location data along with any other dataset to identify individuals.</i>	YES or NO	NO

If you answered 'Yes' to one or more of these questions, you should make sure that you have strong and secure data privacy risk mitigation safeguards in place, discuss these with your supervisor.

#### 4.2 WILL ANONYMISATION OR PSEUDONYMISATION OF THE PERSONAL DATA, WHERE APPLICABLE, BE UNDERTAKEN?

**Anonymisation** is the process of removing personal identifiers, both direct and indirect, that may lead to an individual being identified. **Pseudonymisation** is the processing of personal data in such a manner that the personal data can no longer be attributed to a specific living individual without the use of additional information, provided that such additional information is kept separately and is subject to technical and organisational measures to ensure its security.

YES or NO
YES

If YES, please explain below the methods by which you intend to anonymise/pseudonymise the personal data:

To preserve anonymity and confidentiality, we will be recording the data associating it to pseudonyms (fictitious names). In this manner, names and any other identifying information remains anonymous.

### 5. DATA/SAMPLE STORAGE, SECURITY AND DISPOSAL

For the purpose of this section the term 'Data' includes personal data that is in a raw or a processed state (e.g. interview audiotape, transcript or analysis, etc.). The term 'Samples' include body fluids and/or tissue samples.

#### 5.1 HOW AND WHERE WILL THE DATA/SAMPLES BE STORED?

DCU recommends that any data stored electronically offsite should utilise the DCU Google Drive. Alternative offsite storage will need to be justified and must meet data protection and GDPR compliance requirements.

The data/samples obtained from the focus groups will be stored safely in a private Google Drive directory, to which only the researchers of the project will have access to.

#### 5.2 WHO WILL HAVE ACCESS TO DATA/SAMPLES?

If people other than the main researchers have access, please name who they are and explain for what purpose.

The main researchers: Immanuel Idelegbagbon and Stefano Pozzuoli.

#### 5.3 HOW LONG IS THE DATA TO BE HELD OR RETAINED?

Note that, with very few exceptions, **Personal Data** may not be retained indefinitely. It is up to the project team to establish an upper retention limit for each category of Personal Data used within the project and to ensure it is applied at the expiry of that limit. The School of Computing Research Ethics Committee recommends that Personal Data is retained until after the resit Pab for the current academic year.

The data will be retained until the 01/06/2021, at the latest. It will be retained until this time in case that the University needs to review it for any specific purpose.

#### 5.4 IF YOUR PROJECT DOES INVOLVE THE USE OF PERSONAL DATA THEN WILL THIS BE USED AT A LATER DATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PUBLICATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE PROJECT?

YES or NO
NO

Where it is intended that the personal data used in the project will be used at a later date for the purposes of publication please explain how consent to do so will be obtained.

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**5.5 IF THE DATA/SAMPLES ARE TO BE DISPOSED OF AT THE END OF THE PROJECT PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW, WHEN AND BY WHOM THIS WILL BE DONE?**

Note that simply deleting files is not sufficiently secure. The additional steps to be taken to maintain data security should be given. **Personal data** must be disposed of in a safe and secure manner at the end of its retention period. If the data is stored in (a) a paper-based format, then shredding or disposal via a secure bin is recommended; or (b) in an electronic-based format, then deletion of the record or the full anonymization of the data is recommended. If data/samples are **not** being disposed of, please justify that intention.

<p><b>How will the data/samples be disposed of?</b></p> <p>Please describe the means by which the personal data will be deleted or destroyed. This includes personal data held in hard copy and digital formats.</p>	<p>The data will be only stored digitally in a private Google Drive directory, to which only the researchers of the project will have access to. Following the use of the data, this will be permanently deleted from said private Google Drive and will not be retrievable.</p>
<p><b>By whom will the data/samples be disposed?</b></p> <p>Please indicate the designated team member(s) with responsibility for deletion and/or destruction of the research project's personal data.</p>	<p>The designated team members with responsibility for deletion and/or destruction of the research project's personal data are:</p> <p>Immanuel Idelegbagbon</p> <p>Stefano Puzzuoli</p>



## 6. PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT *(Attach to this document. Up to a max of 400 words)*

A Plain Language Statement (PLS) should be used in all cases. This is written information in plain language that you will be providing to participants, outlining the nature of their involvement in the project and inviting their participation. The PLS should specifically describe what will be expected of participants, the risks and inconveniences for them, and other information relevant to their involvement. Please note that the language used must reflect the participant age group and corresponding comprehension level – if your participants have different comprehension levels (e.g. both adults and children) then separate forms should be prepared for each group. The PLS can be embedded in an email to which an online survey is attached, or handed/sent to individuals in advance of their consent being sought. See link to sample templates on the website: <https://www.dcu.ie/researchsupport/ethicsapproval.shtml>

### PLEASE CONFIRM WHETHER THE FOLLOWING ISSUES HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED IN YOUR PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT/ INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS:

Note that this list is a check-list of all of the things that you should include in your plain language statement, if they are relevant (they are in most cases). In the earlier sections of this form you have already written the text that can be used to create your plain language statement. References to the relevant sections are provided on each line.

	YES or NO
Introductory Statement (Student(s) and supervisor names, school, title of the project) [Table, p 1]	YES
What is this project about? [section 2.1]	YES
Why is this project being conducted? [section 2.1]	YES
What will the participant be expected to do/have to do if they decide to participate in the study?[section 2.1]	YES
How will their privacy be protected? [section 2.5, section 2.6]	YES
How will the data be used and subsequently disposed of? [section 5.3]	YES
What are the legal limitations to data confidentiality? [section 2.7]	NO
Are there any benefits of taking part in the study? [section 3.3]	NO
Are there any risks of taking part in the study? [section 3.2]	YES
Confirmation that participants can change their mind at any stage and withdraw from the study [see plain language statement template, appendix 1]	YES
How will participants find out what happens with the project? [section 2.9]	YES
Contact details for further information [see plain language statement template, appendix 1]	YES

If any of these issues are marked NO, please justify their exclusion:

The participants are informed of when their data will be destroyed and therefore don't need the legal information as well. The benefits are more personal participation and therefore only exist if the user feels they do. Questions are opinion based and not seeking any personal data.

## 7. INFORMED CONSENT FORM *(Attach to this document. Approx. 300 words, see appendices 2 and 3 for templates.)*

In most cases where interviews or focus groups are taking place, an Informed Consent Form is required. This is an important document requiring participants to indicate their consent to participate in the study and give their signature. In cases where an anonymous questionnaire is being used, it is not enough to include a tick box in the questionnaire. Participants should indicate their consent to each aspect of the research in a staged manner by checking mandatory checkboxes.

See link to sample templates on the website: <https://www.dcu.ie/researchsupport/ethicsapproval.shtml>

**NB – IF AN INFORMED CONSENT FORM IS NOT BEING USED, THE REASON FOR THIS MUST BE JUSTIFIED HERE.**

NB

## 8. ASSENT FORM & PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT FOR CHILDREN *(Attach to this document.)*

A child specific Plain Language Statement (PLS) should be used in project where children will be involved. The PLS must be written in a way that is understandable for children within your targeted age group. It also must state, in plain language, the nature of their involvement in the project and inviting their participation. The PLS should specifically describe what will be expected of participants, the risks and inconveniences for them, and other information relevant to their involvement. In addition, child participants should also be provided with an Assent Form. Parents/guardians will be provided with the Informed Consent Form, but each child should provide assent before taking part in the project. The Assent Form needs to be understandable to the age-group you are targeting. See link to sample templates on the website: <https://www.dcu.ie/researchsupport/researchethics.shtml>

**NB – IF AN ASSENT FORM IS NOT BEING USED, THE REASON FOR THIS MUST BE JUSTIFIED HERE.**

NB

**9. SUBMISSION CHECKLIST** *(Attach to this document)*

Please confirm that all supplementary information is included in your application (in electronic copy). If questionnaire or interview questions are submitted in draft form, please indicate this by putting (draft) after YES. A copy of the final documentation must be submitted for final approval when available.

<b>My application has been collated as one electronic PDF file which includes the following documentation:</b>	<b>INCLUDED (mark as YES)</b>	<b>NOT APPLICABLE (mark as N/A)</b>
Recruitment advertisement [consistent with section 2.3]		N/A
Plain language statement/Information Statement [see section 6 and appendix 1]	YES	
Informed Consent form [see appendices 2 and 3]	YES	
Informed Assent form (children only)		N/A
Evidence of external approvals related to the research [see sections 1.1 and 2.10]		N/A
Questionnaire/Survey		N/A
Interview/Focus Group Questions	YES	

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## **Appendix 1**

### **DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY**

### ***Plain Language Statement***

**Project Title: No-Limit Texas Hold'em Poker App**  
**DCU Students: Immanuel Idelegbagbon, Stefano Puzzuoli.**  
**Supervisor: Dr. Mark Roantree**

You are invited to take part in this project, which will see the creation of a No-Limit Texas Hold'em Poker App. You are being asked to take part because feedback from potential users of the system is essential to determine what features and designs work appropriately in the current App.

Before you decide if you want to take part it is important you are aware of why this research is taking place and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and discuss your thoughts with others if you wish. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions.

This project consists of an easy to use web application that allows users to test their Texas Hold'em Poker skills against one or more Artificial Intelligence Agents in games of No-Limit Texas Hold'em Poker. The Agents will learn from their opponents' behaviours and implement strategies to counteract their actions in order to maximise their own winnings. Participants will be required to make use of our Web application, playing games of Poker against our AI Agents allowing us to evaluate the Agents' performances. Additionally, our users will also provide feedback on the performances and UX.

The main goal of the project will be to create an app that allows users to test their Texas Hold'em Poker skills against one or more Artificial Intelligence Agents in games of No-Limit Texas Hold'em Poker.

Accessibility is a key aspect of the App. The system will run such that each user will have the same level of efficiency despite any disabilities or impairments they may have. Every user will have a quick and simple experience.

Should you wish to participate, you will be asked a number of questions based on your experience using the No-Limit Texas Hold'em Poker App. You will be asked about the features of the app you have had a positive or negative experience with and whether there are any changes you would like to be made to improve it.

Participation in this research is voluntary. You will not have to answer any questions you are not comfortable with. You may change your mind at any moment and withdraw from the research. The data collected from your participation will be used to determine which features and designs to keep and which to improve. Your personal information will not be mentioned in documents based on the research. Your answers to the questions asked will remain documented until the end of the academic year, after this they will be destroyed. There are no foreseeable risks to participation in this project. Participants may not request the results of this project as it will be anonymised.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [stefano.puzzuoli2@mail.dcu.ie](mailto:stefano.puzzuoli2@mail.dcu.ie)

Thank you.

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## **Appendix 2**

### **DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY**

#### **Informed Consent Form**

You are invited to participate in a focus group for a study of users' experiences and opinions concerning the No-Limit Texas Hold'em Poker App. This research study is being conducted by Immanuel Idelegbagbon and Stefano Puzzuoli at Dublin City University.

#### ***Clarification of the purpose of the research***

The purpose of this research is to acquire insight into what users think about No-Limit Texas Hold'em Poker App and how they think it could be improved.

#### ***Confirmation of particular requirements as highlighted in the Plain Language Statement***

Participant – please complete the following (Circle Yes or No for each question)

<i>I have read the Plain Language Statement (or had it read to me)</i>	Yes/No
<i>I understand the information provided</i>	Yes/No
<i>I have had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss this study</i>	Yes/No
<i>I have received satisfactory answers to all my questions</i>	Yes/No
<i>I acknowledge that I am required to participate in a focus group</i>	Yes/No
<i>I am aware that I will be asked questions about the No-Limit Texas Hold'em Poker App</i>	Yes/No
<i>I am aware that my answers will be recorded</i>	Yes/No

#### ***Confirmation that involvement in the Research Study is voluntary***

I am aware that my involvement in this research study is completely voluntary. I am aware that I may withdraw at any point, or not answer any particular question for any reason if I wish so.

#### ***Confirmation of arrangements to be made to protect confidentiality of data, including that confidentiality of information provided is subject to legal limitations***

I am aware that my answers will be stored in a private Google Drive folder. I am aware that my personal data will not be mentioned in any documents.

#### ***Confirmation of arrangements regarding retention/disposal of data***

I am aware of the fact that the data will be retained until 01/06/2021 and then destroyed.

#### ***Signature:***

I have read and understood the information in this form. My questions and concerns have been answered by the researchers, and I have a copy of this consent form. Therefore, I consent to take part in this research project.

**Participants Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name in Block Capitals:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Witness:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## ***Appendix 3***

### ***Focus Group Questions***

#### **Introductory Questions**

1. Today's topic is the No-Limit Texas Hold'em Poker Web App. What are your general feelings about it after your experience using it?
2. What words or phrases come to mind when you think of this App?
3. When, how, and where do you use the system?
4. What do you like best about the App?

#### **Improvements & Dissatisfaction Questions**

5. Would you say you are satisfied with the performance of the App?
6. What are specific issues, concerns, or problems you've faced when using the App?
  1. How significant is the problem or concern you have with this product?
  2. What is the cause of this problem?
  3. How do you believe this problem can be solved?
7. What are the App's key weaknesses in your opinion?

#### **Positive Aspects Questions**

8. What are the App's key strengths in your opinion?
9. What is your favourite aspect of the App and why?

#### **New Features Questions**

10. What features would you like to be added to the App? Why?

#### **Closing Questions**

11. Is there anything else you want to add to the conversation about the App ?
12. Do you feel that any topic or issue about the App has not been addressed?
13. Is there a specific topic we want to circle back to from this discussion to add or expand on?