

Geraldine Mc Cann:

Student Number: D11128640

MSc DT580

Your application for ethical clearance **Ref. 13-56** has been recently reviewed by the Research Ethics Committee.

Please find outcome below:

- User should provide a clearly outlined methodology (for data collection); not an entire research proposal. Overall the methodology is not clear, for example: How many students will take part in the interviews? How will these interviews be conducted / data recorded? How will the data be stored (electronic/hard copy)? How long will the data be stored and how will it be ethically destroyed (in line with best practice)? The methodology seems confused between what the research will do and how the data will be collected.

Qualitative methods will be used for data collection in my research. Between four to six students/tutors will be interviewed. Interviews will be voice recorded. Data will be stored electronically on my own personal PC in which I am the only user and all data collected will be password protected. All data will be destroyed after five years. The surveys will be anonymous and each participant will be emailed a link from kwik surveys <http://kwiksurveys.com/> where the data will be analysed and produced in the form of a chart.

- Application form needs to tick 'yes' or 'no' if the research has any ethical considerations. (Maybe it's just the way Google Docs displays this page, but both boxes appear ticked).

This is now ticked.

- Application form needs to be signed.

This will be signed by digital signature.

- Methodology appears to be written in the past tense. Has this work been carried out already? Content delivery noted as March to July. Is this 2013 or 2014?

Time frame will be from November 2013 for the new intake of participants to July 2014 as this will be an action research proposal.

- Students that participated were given a "top up"? Is this a monetary reward for taking part?

This section is not related to my research proposal as no payment will be made to the students. As the students will be in receipt of a social welfare payment, they will be given an additional top up payment for attending the course itself which is run by the CDETB and the job centre.

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- “You will be asked to participate in some of the following...”. This is a very vague statement in the participant information sheet. The participants should be made aware of exactly what they will have to do as part of this study.

They will be asked to complete a survey on completion on the course and follow up with an interview of their progression, in which all will be voluntary. This has been updated in the Participant information sheet and consent form. The form also asks students to give their permission for their work to be showcased as artefacts.

- How will the data be collected anonymously if the researcher is going to remain in contact with participants (as mentioned in the participant information sheet)? Will the interviews be carried out by the researcher or by an independent person?

The surveys will be online and anonymous. Each participant will be emailed a link from kwik surveys where the data will be analysed and produced in the form of a chart. The interviews will be undertaken by the researcher after the course has finished. All participants will be given the option to take part in the interviews voluntarily. If the participants decline an interview, no explanation will be needed.

- No mention of who has access to the data generated? Supervisors etc?

The data will be anonymised and stored confidentially. Data will be accessed by the researcher, and potentially shown to the supervisor Dr. Claire Mc Avinia DIT for support analysis. Results of analysis will be made available to Ms Celia Rafferty (Adult Education Officer for the CDET) who is my Community Partner and Sinead Mc Cann (Project Officer Community Links DIT).

- Participants should be made aware of how long each participation (survey, interview etc) will take. Survey will take approximately fifteen minutes and the interview will take approximately twenty five minutes. This has been updated in the participants information sheet and consent form.

Outcome: Conditional approval, provided all queries above addressed.

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28/10/13 01:02 +00:00

Signed: I approve the document

