

# RESEARCH ETHICS REVIEW

## EDUCATION + MODERN LANGUAGES

This checklist should be completed for every research project that involves human participants. **It must be completed before potential participants are approached to take part in any research.** It will be used by the module tutor or supervisor and Research Ethics Officer to identify whether a fuller application for ethics approval needs to be submitted or whether the research can proceed without this.

### Section I: Project Details

1. Project title: The use of Facebook by students in the UK and Brazil
- Statement of Research Purpose: This project will look at how university students use the social networking site Facebook to organise their academic and social lives.
- Project Aims/ Research questions: Is Facebook a purely social phenomenon or does it have a significant impact on the academic lives of new students. Are there any cultural differences in the way in which this is used.
- Proposed methods: This project will involve three main strands. First anonymous ethnographic observations will be undertaken of key public discussion boards. Secondly all users in the two target institutions will be asked to respond to a questionnaire. In the final phase of the research participants will be recruited to provide qualitative insights on key issues identified by the project.
- Method of recruiting research participants: Researchers are already active members of the Facebook community. The two institutions that will be used as case studies (University of Leicester and UFRJ - Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro) have been approached for support. It is expected that this institutional support will be helpful in recruiting participants at the questionnaire stage. Researchers are already members of the two university Facebook networks and the initial stage of the research will only look at public forums. Recruitment to the questionnaire stage will be entirely voluntary and will be achieved through online advertising on both Facebook and institutional sites. Finally the qualitative interviews will be recruited from those who indicated a willingness to participate on the questionnaire.
- Criteria for selecting research participants: The two institutions chosen are selected to be broadly comparable in terms of size and range of disciplines.

### Section II: Applicant Details

2. Name of researchers (applicant): DL Novo
3. Status: Staff
4. Email addresses: a) [dln4@le.ac.uk](mailto:dln4@le.ac.uk)  
b)  
c)

- 5a. Contact addresses:
  - d)
  - e)
  - a)
  - b)
  - c)
  - d)
  - e)
- 5b. Telephone numbers
  - a)
  - b)
  - c)
  - d)
  - e)

**Section III: For Students Only**

- 6. Module name and number, MA or PhD course and department:
- 7. Module leader's or supervisor's name:
- 8. Email address:
- 9. Contact address:

### Section IV: Module Tutors/Dissertation Supervisors Only

Please tick the appropriate boxes. The study should not begin until all boxes are ticked:

- The topic merits further research
- The student has the skills to carry out the research
- The participant information sheet or leaflet is appropriate
- The procedures for recruitment and obtaining informed consent are appropriate

Comments from module tutor/ supervisor:

### Section V: All Research Applicants

Please outline below whether or not your research raises any particular ethical issues and how you plan to address these issues.

We have approached this topic carefully and have tried to develop a process of consent and anonymity that fits with the project. All data from the first two stages of the research will be dealt with and reported in a confidential way. Participants in the final stage will be given the option to be acknowledged if they choose.

How many research participants do you intend to involve?  
Is this figure: **FIXED?**  **APPROX.?**  **1000+**

Are you using a Participant Information and Informed Consent Form?  
**YES**  **NO**

If YES, please paste copy form at the end of this application.

Have you submitted a Risk Assessment Form **YES**  **NO**

Now proceed to the Research Ethics Checklist:

## Section VI: Research Ethics Checklist

Please answer each question by ticking the appropriate box:

	YES	NO
1. Does the study involve participants who are particularly vulnerable or unable to give informed consent? (e.g. children, people with learning disabilities, your own students)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Will the study require the co-operation of a gatekeeper for initial access to the groups or individuals to be recruited? (e.g. students at school, members of self-help group, residents of nursing home)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Will it be necessary for participants to take part in the study without their knowledge and consent at the time? (e.g. covert observation of people in non-public places)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Will the study involve discussion of sensitive topics (e.g. sexual activity, drug use)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Are drugs, placebos or other substances (e.g. food substances, vitamins) to be administered to the study participants or will the study involve invasive, intrusive or potentially harmful procedures of any kind?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Will blood or tissue samples be obtained from participants?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. Is pain or more than mild discomfort likely to result from the study?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Could the study induce psychological stress or anxiety or cause harm or negative consequences beyond the risks encountered in normal life?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9. Will the study involve prolonged or repetitive testing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10. Will financial inducements (other than reasonable expenses and compensation for time) be offered to participants?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. Will the study involve recruitment of patients or staff through the NHS?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**If you have answered 'no' to all questions**, paste copy of any Participant Information/Informed Consent Form at end of this document and then sign and date the form overleaf and then submit form to your module tutor/ supervisor. You should also all retain a copy of the form.

**If you have answered 'yes' to any of the questions in Section VI**, please return to Section V and ensure that you have described in detail how you plan to deal with the ethical issues raised by your research. Answering yes to questions does not mean that you cannot do the research only that your proposal raises significant ethical issues which will need careful consideration and formal approval by the module tutor/ supervisor and the Department's Research Ethics Officer **prior to you commencing your research**. If you answered 'yes' to question 11, you will also have to submit an application to the appropriate external health authority ethics committee. Any significant change in the question, design or conduct over the course of the research should be notified to the module tutor/ supervisor may require a new application for ethics approval.

**Signatures:**

**Date:**

Students: .....  
(all students involved in .....  
research must sign) .....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Supervisor/module tutor: .....

Research ethics officer: .....

Please paste copies of information/informed consent forms in here before submitting to Supervisor/Module Tutor:  
  
Relevant information and consent form submitted as described above.