

Ethical Approval Form: Human Research Projects

Please word-process this form, handwritten applications will not be accepted



This form must be completed for each piece of research activity whether conducted by academic staff, research staff, graduate students or undergraduates. The completed form must be approved by the designated authority within the Faculty.

Please complete all sections. If a section is not applicable, write N/A.

1 Name of Applicant	Jason Gunn	
	Department: Computing	Faculty: Media, Humanities and Technology
2 Position in the University	Undergraduate Student	
3 Role in relation to this research	Conducting research for final year project	
4 Brief statement of main Research Question	The research candidates will be given several rendered 3D images to look at, both from real video games, and from work created for this project. They will then be asked to evaluate these, so that the success of the applied techniques can be measured, most likely through a questionnaire. There is also the possibility that the research candidates may be required to interact with a game engine (Moving around a game world) however this is still being researched.	
5 Brief Description of Project	There are three main aims for this project, the research stage is split into two:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ To determine limitations of lower end hardware, and ascertain realistic polygonal limitations for character and asset models. ❖ To determine techniques used within games developed for the latest hardware, such as normal maps. <p>This research will then be taken and applied; limitations will be taken into consideration when producing the main artefact model. The techniques found will then be applied to the model. The outcome of the project will then be evaluated by the research candidates to determine the overall improvement to the model (If any) in order to conclude the project.</p>	
	Approximate Start Date: 15 th November 2008	Approximate End Date: 15 th April 2008
6 Name of Principal Investigator or Supervisor	Grzegorz Cielniak	
	Email address: gcielniak@lincoln.ac.uk	Telephone: 01522 83 73 98
7 Names of other researchers or student investigators involved	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. N/A 2. 3. 4. 	
8 Location(s) at which project is to be carried out	Lincoln University, MHAC Building.	

9 Statement of the ethical issues involved and how they are to be addressed –including a risk assessment of the project based on the vulnerability of participants, the extent to which it is likely to be harmful and whether there will be significant discomfort.

(This will normally cover such issues as whether the risks/adverse effects associated with the project have been dealt with and whether the benefits of research outweigh the risks)

Introduction:

The majority of research will be conducted on computing students, as this type of participant has an already developed understanding of how graphics tend to look. Because of this they will also have an understanding of how computing technology works which greatly decreases the risk of feeling demeaned by the tasks at hand.

All participants will be informed exactly what is expected of them before they begin testing, and will also know that they are free to stop testing at any time should they feel the need.

The research itself will consist of two parts, one involving potential interaction with a game engine/looking at pre rendered images on a computer screen and the second consisting of a paper based questionnaire.

Potential Risks:

Because of the group to be involved in research many potential risks are removed, however:

Eye Strain:

It is possible that the research participants may suffer eye strain if exposed to the computer screen for a long period of time. The research however should not be a lengthy period certainly taking less time than it would to produce a piece of coursework, or play a video game which as computing students the participants are likely to do on a regular basis. This risk is also reduced with the modern technology to be used within the research stage such as LCD monitors.

Epilepsy:

This is probably the most likely risk, if lighting were to be changed rapidly then it may trigger an epilepsy attack in one of the research candidates. Lighting will therefore be taken into consideration and all attempts to reduce this risk will be made. Research candidates will also be pre-warned of this risk before they begin testing, and will be asked to inform me of any such ailments before the research begins.

Dislike to Question:

The research candidates may dislike a specific aspects of the questionnaire, if this is the case they will be free to not answer the question. However careful planning of the questionnaire will be completed to ensure that it is inoffensive and accurate.

Demeaning Tasks:

If the user feels the task is demeaning then they may not wish to continue research, however this is fine. Research should not be difficult as the participant will be looking at rendered images, or potentially interacting with a game engine. The process will be explained so they understand what they are doing before the research begins to reduce this risk.

While there are evidently some risks involved with this project they are minimal and while they are taken into consideration without this section of the project it would not be possible to produce an logical conclusion without evidence of the success or failure of the applied techniques.

Ethical Approval From Other Bodies

10 Does this research require the approval of an external body ?

Yes No

If "Yes", please state which body:-

11 Has ethical approval already been obtained from that body ?

Yes Please append documentary evidence to this form.

No

If "No", please state why not:-

N/A

Please note that any such approvals must be obtained and documented before the project begins.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE

I hereby request ethical approval for the research as described above.
I certify that I have read the University's ETHICAL PRINCIPLES FOR CONDUCTING RESEARCH WITH HUMANS AND OTHER ANIMALS.

J. Gunn

Applicant Signature

Date: 28th November 2008

Jason Gunn
PRINT NAME

FOR COMPLETION BY THE CHAIR OF THE FACULTY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Please select ONE of A, B, C or D below:

- A. The Faculty Research Committee gives ethical approval to this research.
- B. The Faculty Research Committee gives conditional ethical approval to this research.

12 Please state the condition (inc. date by which condition must be satisfied if applicable)

- C. The Faculty Research Committee cannot give ethical approval to this research but refers the application to the University Research Ethics Committee for higher level consideration.

13 Please state the reason

- D. The Faculty Research Committee cannot give ethical approval to this research and recommends that the research should not proceed.

14 Please state the reason

Signature of Chair of Faculty Research Committee (or nominee)

Signed _____

Date _____