

## DECLARATION OF RESEARCH ETHICS AND/OR ASSESSMENT OF RISK

All research and scholarship proposals, whether funded or not by internal or external funds, must submit a RESEARCH ETHICS/ASSESSMENT OF RISK FORM to the DIT Research Ethics Committee.

This is a self-declaration process. The researcher is asked to formally identify any possible ethical issues or risks that might arise in the course of the work, and to sign the documentation.

Please refer to the Guiding Principles and Procedures indicated on the DIT Research Ethics website prior to completing this form:

- <http://www.dit.ie/DIT/graduate/ethics/index.html>

### PLEASE NOTE

- You are requested to attach a copy of your research application to this form.
- The RESEARCH ETHICS /ASSESSMENT OF RISK FORM must be signed by the applicant(s)
- Ethical Approval must be granted prior to start of any research/scholarly activity or prior to funding being released for the project, as appropriate.
- No postgraduate research student will normally be registered until the proposal is cleared by the DIT Research Ethics Committee.

**Completed forms should be returned to: Research Ethics Committee, c/o Office of Graduate Studies, DIT, 143-149 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin 6.**

<b>Title of the proposed project:</b>		
How can DIT academic staff use Learning Management System data and reporting to make better informed decisions around student learning?		
Applicant Details (Use Block Capitals):		
Surname: WALSH	Forename: PATRICK	Title: Mr
Present appointment: Technical Officer		
School/Department/Centre: Information Services Department		
Faculty:		
Work Tel: 01 – 402 2818 Mobile:087-6303258		
Fax:		
E-mail: PATRICK.WALSH@DIT.IE		

Other departments/organisations/individuals involved:

I will be the sole researcher in this study.

In order to carry out this research I will need DIT lecturers to allow me to access modules within D.I.T's Learning Management System namely Blackboard. Consent will be sought from these lecturers and their student cohorts to access the student data within these webcourse modules. These participants have yet to be identified until such time as approval has been granted by the DIT Ethics Committee.

I will be liaising with my project supervisor Dr Frances Boylan during the course of this study. All data relating to students and staff in this study will be anonymised and all data will be encrypted.

Source of Funding: N/A

Has the current research project already received approval from another research ethics committee? No

If so, please enclose relevant information and documentation

#### **Generic Projects: N/A**

Researchers may receive approval for a cluster of similar research activity by approval of a *generic protocol* to cover repetitive methodologies or activities. A *generic protocol* should comprise a covering letter setting out the circumstances and rationale for generic approval, outlining the procedures to be followed in all such projects, in addition to completion of the appropriate appendices.

If this project is part of a cluster of research with similar methodology, please tick here and submit a generic protocol to cover all such projects.

#### **Insurance :N/A**

Normally, DIT insurance covers standard research activity, including fieldtrips. Are you aware of any unusual or exceptional risks or insurance issues to which DIT's insurance company should be alerted? **No** If so, please list the issues:

Please note that no contract should be entered into for clinical/medical (including drug testing) or surgical trials/tests on any human subject until written confirmation has been received from the DIT's insurers that the relevant insurance cover is in place.

Are you or any members of the research team a member of any organisation that provides professional indemnity insurance? **No**

Name of the organisation: N/A

Please provide written confirmation of the terms of insurance cover. N/A

### **Professional Code of Conduct**

Please reference, if appropriate, the produced by your relevant professional organization(s), which also informs your research.

**Please note that: Where those requirements conflict with DIT requirements, the latter will normally be followed. In all such circumstances, please contact the Office of Research Ethics for clarification.**

All researchers must confirm with the Data Protection Act 1988. Please consult the DIT Data Protection Officer for advice.

## IDENTIFICATION OF ETHICAL ISSUES AND/OR RISK

Do any of the following ethical issues or risks apply in your research? If so, tick all box(es) which apply and complete the relevant Appendix, which can be downloaded from <http://www.dit.ie/DIT/graduate/ethics/index.html>

Yes	No	Does your research involve...
X		Impact on human subject(s) and/or the researcher(s) [ <a href="#">Appendix 1</a> ]
X		Consent and advice form given to subjects prior to their participation in the research [ <a href="#">Appendix 2</a> ]
X		Consent form for research involving 'less powerful' subjects or those under 18 years [ <a href="#">Appendix 3</a> ]
	X	Conflict of interest [ <a href="#">Appendix 4</a> ]
	X	Drugs and Medical Devices [ <a href="#">Appendix 5</a> ]
	X	Ionising Radiation [ <a href="#">Appendix 6</a> ]
	X	Neonatal Material [ <a href="#">Appendix 7</a> ]
	X	Animal Welfare [ <a href="#">Appendix 8</a> ]
	X	General Risk Assessment [ <a href="#">Appendix 9</a> ]
	X	Hazardous Chemical Risk Assessment [ <a href="#">Appendix 10</a> ]
	X	Biological Agents Risk Assessment [ <a href="#">Appendix 11</a> ]
	X	Work involving Genetically Modified Organisms Risk Assessment [ <a href="#">Appendix 12</a> ]
	X	Field Work Risk Assessment [ <a href="#">Appendix 13</a> ]

If other risk and/or ethical issues are identified please provide a written submission which outlines the issues and the manner in which they are being addressed.

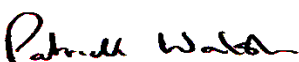
**Please tick the appropriate box below**

**No, there are no** ethical issues and/or risks involved in your research project, **please tick here, and sign the declaration on page 5.**

**Yes, there are ethical** issues and/or risks involved in your research, **please tick here and complete the appropriate forms identified above.**

*In accordance with the Principles of the Declaration of Helsinki and DIT Principles and Procedures, I declare that the information provided in this form is true to the best of my knowledge and judgement.*

*I will advise the DIT Research Ethics Committee of any adverse or unforeseen circumstances or changes in the research which might concern or affect any ethical issues or risks, including if the project fails to start or is abandoned.*

Signature of applicant 1: 

Signature of applicant 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of applicant 3: \_\_\_\_\_

**(An electronic signature is permissible)**

**Checklist**

**Please ensure the following, if appropriate, are attached:**

<b>Documents to be attached</b>	<b>Tick if attached</b>	<b>Tick if not appropriate</b>
Research Proposal	✓	
Letters (to subjects, parents/guardians, GPs, etc)	✓	
Questionnaire(s)		x
Advertisement/Poster		x
Ethical clearance from other ethical research committees		x
Copy of signed agreement of professional indemnity		x
Generic Protocol		x
Other (please specify)		x