

Seminar on Teaching Development Grant Project:  
Blended Learning Technologies

# Learning Research Ethics using an Online Quiz System

Lydia Yee, Department of Psychology



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# Roadmap for today

- Why did I start this project?
- What was it about?
- How did students find it?



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# Motivation behind the project

1. I spend a lot of time editing students' ethics applications.

3. The face-to-face tutorial has to be repeated whenever a new batch of students appear.

2. Students' mistakes reflect lack of understanding of both the theoretical and practical aspects of the ethics application process.



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# Motivation behind the project

2. I want to spread out my learning over multiple sessions and do it at a convenient time to me.

3. I want to focus on concepts that are relevant to my research project.



1. I am not ready to complete the ethics application when the face-to-face tutorial takes place. I want to learn when I am ready.



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# How to solve the problem?



- An online tutorial!
- Advantages:
  - Students will have great flexibility in accessing the materials on their own time and at their own pace
  - Students can pick and choose modules that are relevant to their projects, after mastering the basic concepts
  - Quiz feature ensures student understanding before advancing to the next topic
  - With improved efficiency in obtaining ethics clearance, students and advisors can spend more quality time on the actual project
- Potential to be adopted by other programmes



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# Moodle “Lesson” feature


EdUHK MoodleEnglish (en)My coursesThis course1Ting Sum, Lydia

GradesGradebook setupBadgesBackupRestoreImportQuestion bankCompetenciesSwitch role to...

ACTIVITIES

ForumsLessonsResourcesTurnitin Assignments

Time	Activity	Details
18 Dec 2017	Start date of the research project	
10 Mar 2018 (1400-1630; E-P-01)	1st poster presentation	Research proposal with detailed methodology will be presented
1 week after the 1st poster presentation (17 Mar 2018)*	Submission of ethics application materials to supervisor	You need to prepare the application form, full proposal, questionnaire/interview script, and relevant consent forms and information sheets for the ethics application. More details can be found in the "Ethics application" section below. Please prepare and submit the application materials as early as possible. The files need to be endorsed by the supervisor before sending to FHREC.
Around the week 25-30 Jun 2018	2nd poster presentation	Data analyses need to be finished and major findings will be presented.
27 July 2018, 5pm	Submission of final dissertation	You will submit your final dissertation



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# Course Structure

## Core Units

1. An Introduction and Brief History of Research Ethics
2. Informed Consent
3. Understanding Vulnerability
4. Risk Assessment and Benefits
5. Data Storage and Confidentiality
6. Professional Conduct
7. Ethics Application Procedure

Students must complete **all 7** units

## Special Topics in Research Ethics (complete 2 out of 4)

1. Working with children
2. Working with college samples
3. Research involving deception
4. Data collection using surveys

Students complete at least **2** units



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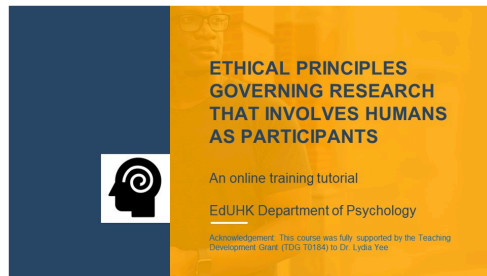
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# Moodle interface

EdUHK\_Moodle English (en) My courses This course 1 Ting Sum, Lydia

## Research Ethics Tutorial (please complete by March 17 11:59pm)



Please click on 'Instructions' to learn how to use the online research ethics tutorial.

Instructions

Unit 1

Unit 2

Unit 3

Not available unless: The activity **Unit 1** is complete and passed

Not available unless:

Ensured that students completed the compulsory modules as the instructor wished.



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# Moodle interface

EdUHK\_Moodle English (en) My courses This course 1 Ting Sum, Lydia

**Special Topic: Working with Children**

Not available unless:

- The activity **Unit 1** is complete and passed
- The activity **Unit 2** is complete and passed
- The activity **Unit 3** is complete and passed
- The activity **Unit 4** is complete and passed
- The activity **Unit 5** is complete and passed
- The activity **Unit 6** is complete and passed
- The activity **Unit 7** is complete and passed

**Special Topic: Research Involving Deception**

Not available unless:

- The activity **Unit 1** is complete and passed
- The activity **Unit 2** is complete and passed
- The activity **Unit 3** is complete and passed
- The activity **Unit 4** is complete and passed
- The activity **Unit 5** is complete and passed
- The activity **Unit 6** is complete and passed
- The activity **Unit 7** is complete and passed

**Special Topic: Data collection using surveys**

Not available unless:

- The activity **Unit 1** is complete and passed
- The activity **Unit 2** is complete and passed
- The activity **Unit 3** is complete and passed
- The activity **Unit 4** is complete and passed
- The activity **Unit 5** is complete and passed
- The activity **Unit 6** is complete and passed
- The activity **Unit 7** is complete and passed

Optional topics are  
“unlocked” after  
students finished the  
compulsory topics



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# An example unit: informed consent



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# Objectives

- Understand the importance and requirements of **informed consent**
- Learn the concepts of **coercion** and **undue influence** and why these must be avoided when conducting your study

*Topics to be covered:*

informed consent

Coercion

Undue influence



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# Informed Consent (1)

The principle of **respect for persons** states the need to treat individuals as **autonomous agents**, thus voluntary informed consent must be obtained **before** subjects participate in research



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## Three aspects of informed consent:

### Information

Provide thorough information about your study for individual to make a decision:

- Purpose
- Risk & Benefits
- Extent of Confidentiality
- Compensation in case of injury during research
- Contact information if subjects have further questions
- Conditions of participation i.e., they can withdraw from the study without consequences

## Informed Consent (2)

The principle of **respect for persons** states the need to treat individuals as **autonomous agents**, thus voluntary informed consent must be obtained **before** subjects participate in research



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### Comprehension

- Individuals have the capacity to understand the information presented for making an informed decision to participate

### Voluntariness

- The decision to participate is free from influence of anyone else



## Methods for obtaining informed consent (1)

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### **Use a consent form**

- Document that participants have been appropriately informed of the purpose, risks, and benefits for the research before they participate
- This form must be *signed by the participant* or in special cases, participant's legally authorized representative



### **Provide an information sheet for participants**

- Delivered in a language comprehensible to the subject! This may involve you translating the presentation to a language that the participant is comfortable with



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## Methods for obtaining informed consent (2)

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- ✓ **Oral presentation to provide opportunity for participants to ask questions**
  
- ✓ **Additional materials that may help explain a specific procedure in the study and familiarize participants with what they will experience**
  - In a cognitive neuroscience study, a video presentation may be used to show what it is like to complete a computer task in an MRI scanner



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**Now complete the quiz for Unit 2!**



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Question:

When is informed consent required?

Answer:

☐

4.88% Checked this one.

When the research study involves interaction with human participants

☐

No one checked this.

When the research study involves interventions with human participants

☐

2.44% Checked this one.

When the research study will collect personal information from human participants

☒

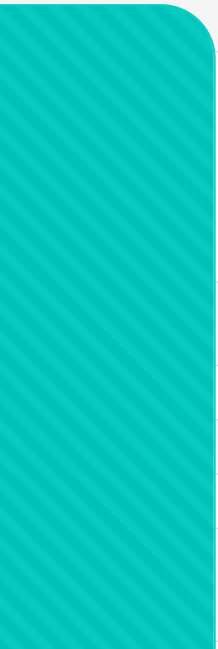

92.68% Checked this one.



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# Nice functionalities in Moodle: # of attempts stats

Name	Attempts	High score
	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% Wednesday, 7 March 2018, 12:34 PM, (13 mins 25 secs)	100%
	<input type="checkbox"/> 33.33% Monday, 12 March 2018, 3:23 PM, (29 secs)	100%
	<input type="checkbox"/> 33.33% Monday, 12 March 2018, 3:24 PM, (1 min 5 secs)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 66.67% Monday, 12 March 2018, 3:25 PM, (14 secs)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 33.33% Monday, 12 March 2018, 3:25 PM, (16 secs)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 66.67% Monday, 12 March 2018, 3:26 PM, (19 secs)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 33.33% Monday, 12 March 2018, 3:26 PM, (21 secs)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% Monday, 12 March 2018, 3:27 PM, (26 secs)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% Monday, 12 March 2018, 1:18 PM, (now)	100%
	<input type="checkbox"/> Monday, 12 March 2018, 1:19 PM, (18 mins 27 secs)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% Monday, 12 March 2018, 6:55 PM, (6 mins 30 secs)	100%
	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% Monday, 12 March 2018, 11:27 PM, (7 mins 48 secs)	100%
	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% Monday, 12 March 2018, 5:08 PM, (6 mins 14 secs)	100%
	<input type="checkbox"/> 66.67% Wednesday, 14 March 2018, 3:17 PM, (1 hour 3 mins)	100%
	<input type="checkbox"/> 66.67% Wednesday, 14 March 2018, 4:21 PM, (1 min 24 secs)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% Wednesday, 14 March 2018, 4:23 PM, (35 secs)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 66.67% Saturday, 3 March 2018, 4:45 PM, (18 mins 9 secs)	100%
	<input type="checkbox"/> 66.67% Saturday, 3 March 2018, 5:04 PM, (1 min 33 secs)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% Saturday, 3 March 2018, 5:06 PM, (52 secs)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Not completed Saturday, 17 March 2018, 11:35 AM	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% Friday, 9 March 2018, 1:26 PM, (17 mins 57 secs)	100%

Students had to answer all questions correctly to “level-up”, or they will be redirected back to the unit.



# Nice functionalities in Moodle: progress check

Surname^ First name	Unit 6	Unit 7	Special Topic: Working with...	Special Topic: Research ...	Special Topic: Data ...	Special Topic: Working with...
	2.00	2.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
	2.00	2.00	3.00	2.00	-	-
	2.00	2.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
	2.00	2.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
	2.00	2.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
	2.00	2.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
	2.00	2.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
	2.00	2.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00

**Practical aspects of the ethics  
application procedures are  
also covered**



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# Ethics Application Procedure

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## UNIT 7



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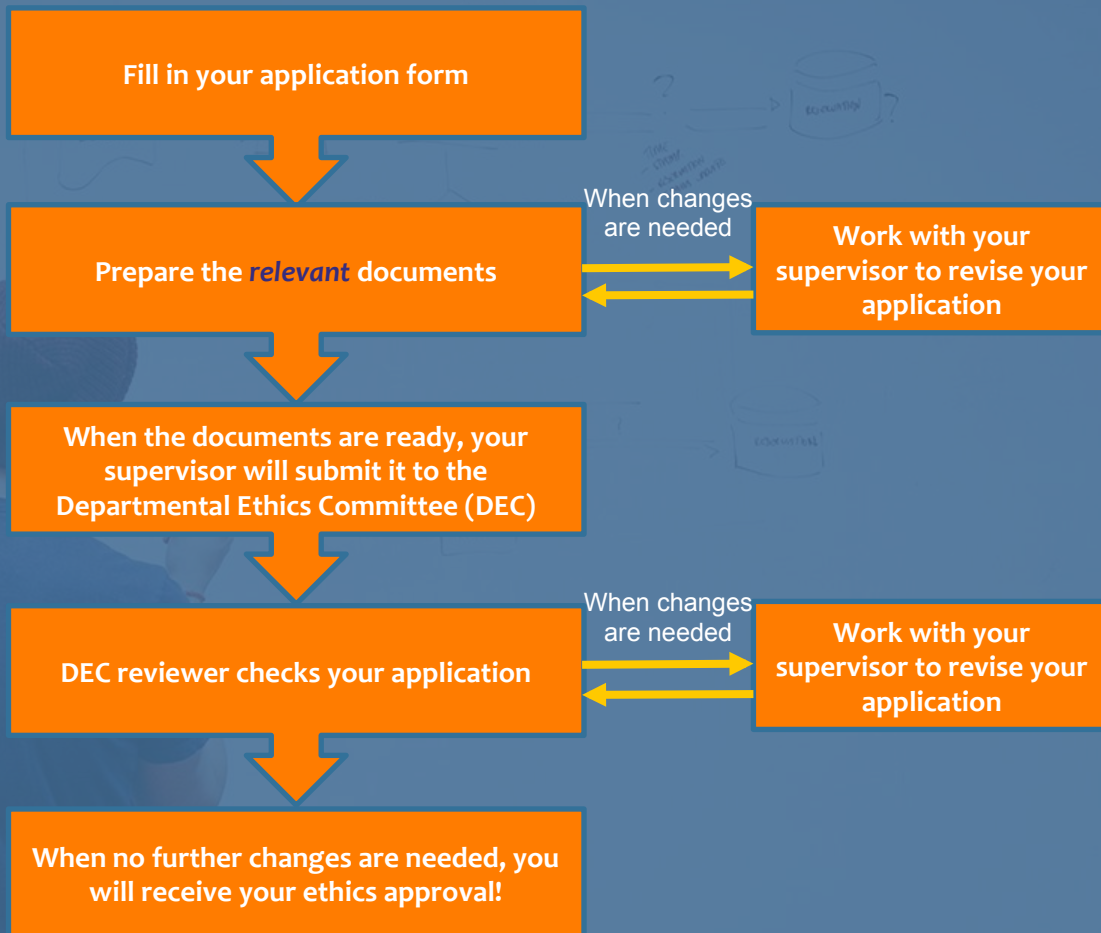
## Here's the process

### DOCUMENTS:

1. Ethics application form
2. Consent form
3. Information sheet
4. Your proposal
5. Sample survey items (if applicable)

**Note: Data collection can  
only commence after  
approval is received!**

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# Access the relevant documents here:



## Information for our Staff / Students

> [Guideline and Policy](#)

> [Research support](#)

## Guideline and Policy

### Ethics Application Forms (Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate)

*(For Application)* [Ethics Application Documents](#)

#### IMPORTANT:

\*The application form, samples of consent forms and information sheets are provided for undergraduate ([BSocSo\(PSY\)](#)), [BEEd with PS staff as supervisors](#) students, [taught postgraduate \(i.e. MSocSoP \(SCS\), MEd with PS staff as supervisors\)](#) students. For students of other programmes, they should contact their own Departments on where to download the ethics forms.

\*Please [download](#) the [application form in 1.](#) + [appropriate consent forms and information sheets in 2.](#)

1. [Ethics Application Form](#) [\(with PS's advice in red, updated by PS in 2/2017\)](#)

2. [Consent Form and Information Sheet](#) [\(updated by PS in 2/2017\)](#)

2.1 For ALL studies that will be conducted in [Schools](#)

[School Consent Form and Information Sheet](#) [\(with PS's advice in red\)](#)

2.2 For ALL studies that will be conducted in [Centre / Organization](#) [\(as Data Collection Site\)](#)

[Centre / Organization Consent Form and Information Sheet](#) [\(with PS's advice in red\)](#)

2.3 For participants [under age 9](#)

[Parental Consent Form and Information Sheet](#) [\(with PS's advice in red\)](#)

[School Consent Form and Information Sheet](#) [\(with PS's advice in red\)](#)

2.4 For participants [aged 9 to 15 or](#)  
(b) participants [aged 16 to 17 \(NON minimal risk studies\)](#)

[Research and Participation Consent Form and Information Sheet](#) [\(with PS's advice in red\)](#)

Find the PS Department Homepage



Find "Information for our staff / students",  
click on 'Guideline and Policy'



Click on 'Ethics Review Application  
Materials'

Helpful documents:

*(For Reference)* [Ethics Application Related Materials](#)

1. [PS Department Guidelines for Student Ethics Applications](#) [\(with PS's advice in red\)](#)

2. [PS Department FAQs for Student Ethics Applications](#) [\(with PS's advice in red\)](#)



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**1. Ethics Application Form**

**2. Consent Form**

**3. Information Sheet**



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# Steps to Complete the Ethics Application Form

Parts I and II (1. & 2.) are largely self-explanatory

- When in doubt about either the post, or contact details of your supervisor, **check the PS website!**

- **Read carefully** the instructions on the form

- put an 'X'
- 'delete as appropriate'

## THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

### Application Form for Ethical Review (for STUDENT Research Projects)

1. Please read carefully the Operational Guidelines and Procedures of the Human Research Ethics Committee available at <http://www.eduhk.hk/rdo/human.html> before completing this form.
2. An application for ethical review should include the following documents:
  - a completed application form for ethical review
  - a sample of the bilingual consent form and information sheet to be distributed to potential research participants
  - a copy of the research proposal including any questionnaire and/ or interview script

#### PART I TYPE OF PROJECT

(Please put "x" as appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Research Postgraduate (RPg) Student Research Project (MPhil/PhD)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Doctor of Education (EdD) Student Research Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Taught Postgraduate (TPg) Student Research Project (MA/Med/PDGE)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Undergraduate (UG) Student Research Project

#### PART II SUMMARY OF THE APPLICATION

1. Student Investigator (Applicant)

Name:	
Student Number:	
Programme Title	BSocSc(Psy), Department of Psychology (PS)
(Please put "x" as appropriate)	MSocScP(SCS), Department of Psychology (PS)
	BEEd ( ) (please specify), Department of ( ) (please specify)
Year of Study:	
Telephone Number:	

2. Principal Supervisor

(a) Name	*Prof/ Dr/ Mr/ Mrs/ Ms/ Miss *Please delete as appropriate
(b) Post:	Chair Professor / Professor / Associate Professor / Assistant Professor / Senior Teaching Fellow / Teaching Fellow I / II
(c) Telephone number	
(d) Faculty / Department	FEHD / PS



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## Section 8:

- This is a summary of your research. Stick to the word limit!
- When describing the methodology, make sure you include details of your participants **i.e., who, age, how many?** Be specific in the criteria of participants you will be recruiting
- Include a **summary** of what your participants will be doing in your study

3. Co-Investigator(s) including External Collaborators

Name	Position

4. Project Title:

5. Project Duration:

From

To

May 31<sup>st</sup> 2018

6. Area/Field of Research::

7. Purpose of the Research: [2-3 sentences explaining the main goal of the research]

8. Summary of the Research: (The summary should be limited to 1/2 page or 200 words, comprehensive to a non-specialist. The summary should indicate clearly what human participants are involved, be informative and indicative of the nature of research to be conducted.)

[A simple abstract of your research that a layperson could understand, AND it should also include information about the **METHODOLOGY**: who your participants will be and how many, what they will be asked to do for your research, and how you will recruit them. Of course, there will be more detail in your Proposal, but you should summarize it here.]

The ethics committee suggests you to use this date as a generous estimate, so that you do not have to re-apply for an extension.



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**1. Ethics Application Form**

**2. Consent Form**

**3. Information Sheet**

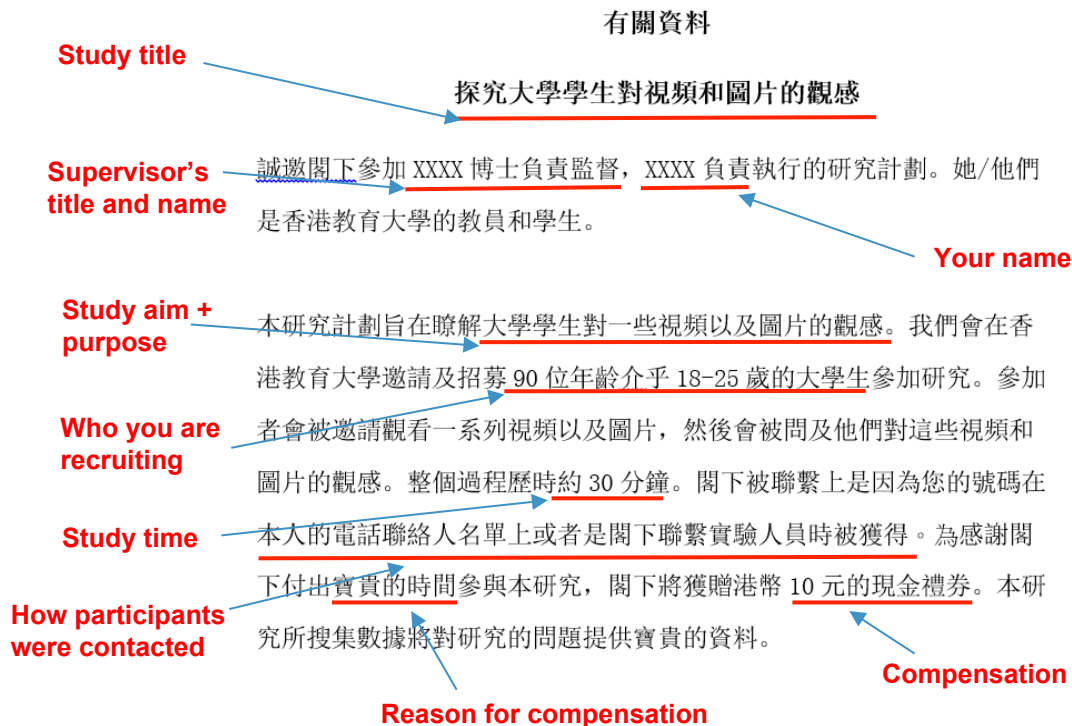


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# Sample Information Sheet (1)

- This is a sample info sheet. Prepare it in the language that you are presenting to participants, i.e., Chinese or English
- The details included here should be **consistent** with what you filled in for Part II Section 9 (Methodology of Research)!
- If your study involves deception, your 'Project Title' may need modification to conceal the real purpose of the study – This needs to be explained in the ethics application form (Part II Section 9)
- Address the participants directly, as if you are speaking to them, e.g., "You will be doing a computer task etc.." – **do not** write in first person e.g., "I will give you ...."
- For info sheet written in Chinese, use EITHER Traditional or Simplified Chinese (choose the one that is suitable to your study sample), but NOT a mix of characters



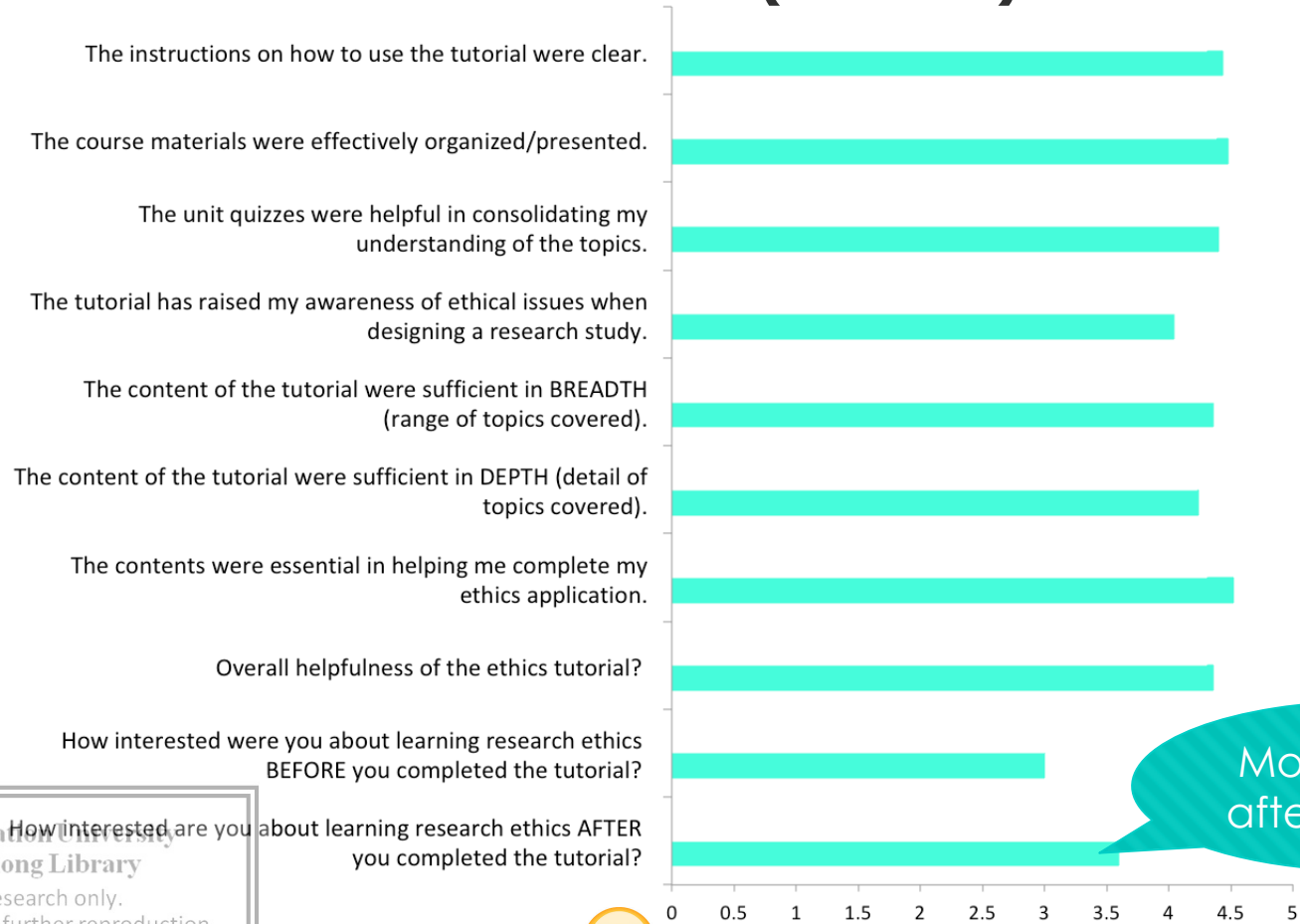
# How did students find the tutorial?



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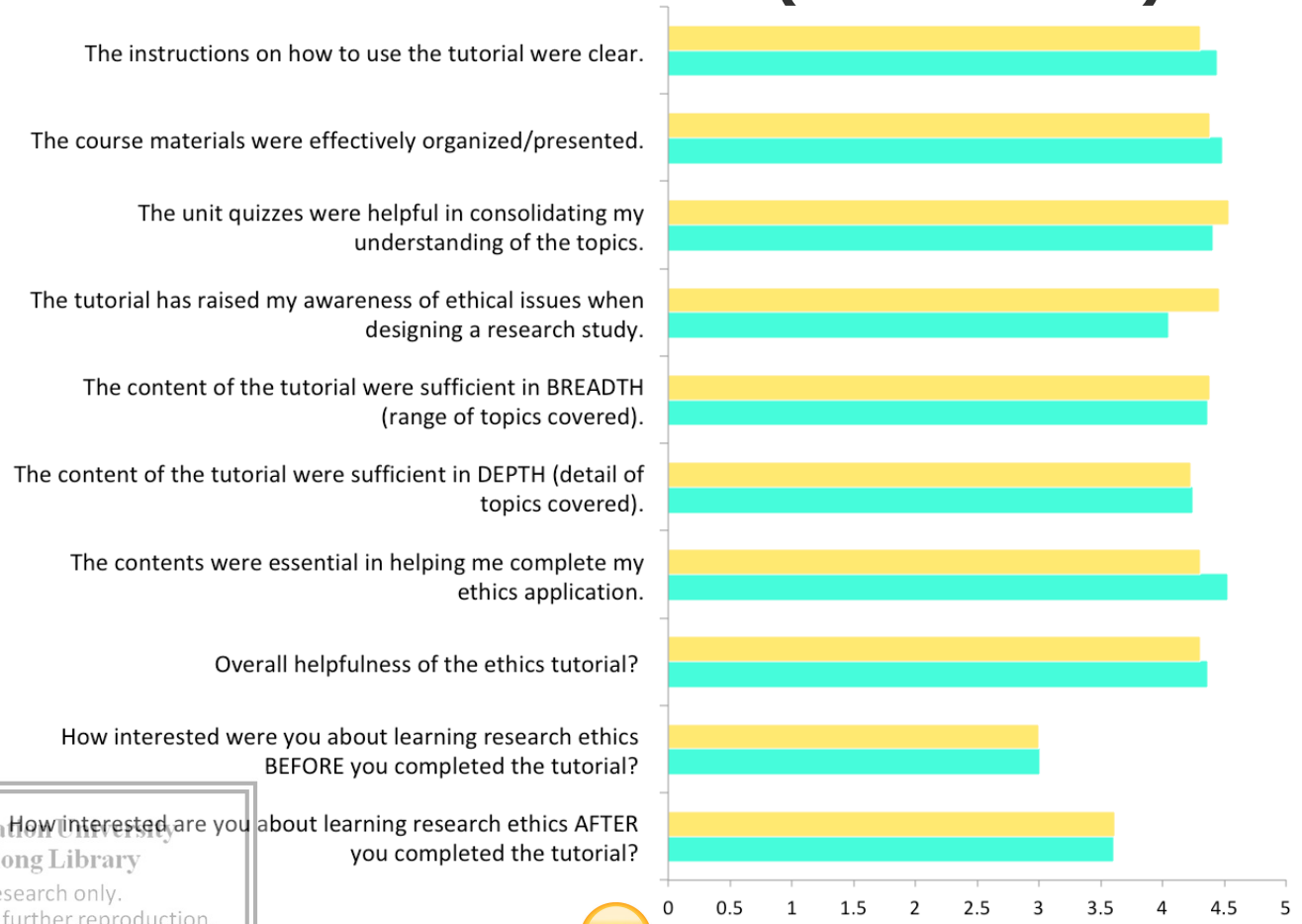
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# Feedback from BSocSci students (first run)



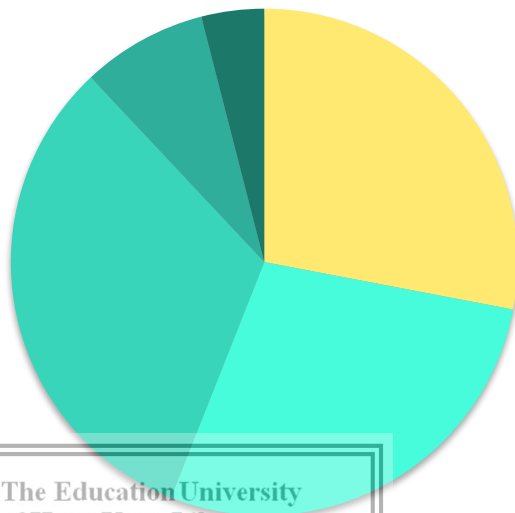
More interest after learning!

# Feedback from MSocSci students (second run)

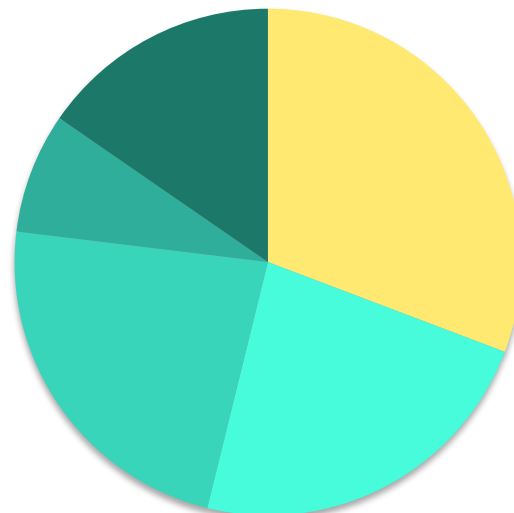


# How many sessions did students take to finish the tutorial?

BSocSci students



MSocSci students



- 1 session
- 2 sessions
- 3 sessions
- 4 sessions
- 5 sessions



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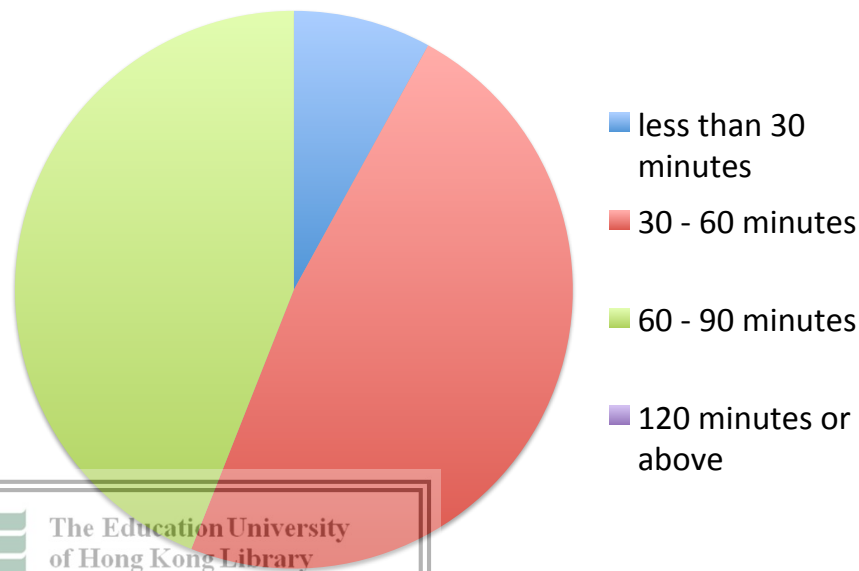
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*Many students took advantage of the multi-session feature of the tutorial.*



# How much time did students spend on the tutorial?

BSocSci students



MSocSci students



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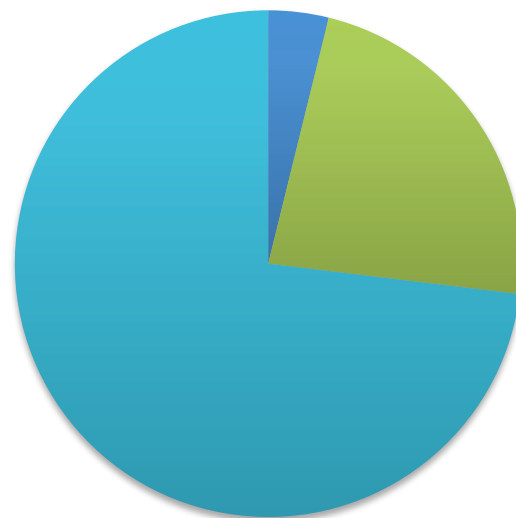
*Many students engaged with the materials as intended.*

# How many **optional** units did students complete?

BSocSci students



MSocSci students



- 0 modules
- 1 module
- 2 modules
- 3 modules
- 4 modules



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Many students did **more** than what was required!

# Qualitative feedback

- “It is quite **clear** and **straight to the point**, surprised me because at first I think it will be boring and lengthy, but finally help me in the organisation of the research ethics.”
- “This E-learning method is a very helpful way to learn things **at my own pace**, this is a very good attempt!”
- “It was very helpful for me to finish the consent form, information sheet, and application form. It is equivalent to the guidelines.”
- “It might be useful if the PowerPoint(or some key points) could be download after completed the tutorial for review.”



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# Summary

- An online training tutorial for research ethics was developed
- It encompasses both **theoretical** and **practical** aspects of research ethics application procedures
- Cater to students' needs: flexibility in **when** they study and **which** modules they study
- Other programmes can adopt it to benefit all students conducting undergraduate / postgraduate research projects



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