

Ethical Action Plan (500-750 words)*

This document is a chance for you to **begin shaping your project** while thinking through its ethical considerations, implications, and responsibilities. We know this might feel early in your action research journey, but this short plan is here to help pin down your ideas and work-in-progress.

Use whatever writing format that suits you - lists, bullet points, statements or paragraphs - and follow the suggested links stated alongside some of the questions for guidance.

A good starting point is the [BERA Guidelines for Educational Research, fifth edition \(2024\)](#) alongside the [‘Ethics Files and Resources’](#) on Moodle.

When you’re ready, email your draft to your allocated tutor **48 hours in advance of you first group tutorial** in the week commencing **6 October 2025**, so it can help guide the focus of discussions and support your project development.

Name: Charlie Lewis

Tutor: Kwame Baah

Date:

1. What is the working title of your project? Also write a few sentences about the focus of your project.

Can adaptable sewing tool packs improve student development of sewing skills and foster a sense of inclusion?

The purpose of the study is to analyse attempts at creating a more inclusive student experience and development of skills, and whether this has a positive impact. If not, why? What could be improved?

Can adaptable sewing tool packs improve student development of sewing skills and foster a sense of inclusion?

These conversations will occur during the first technical workshops the students will attend at university. I will be trying to create more accessibility to the sewing machines and other technical equipment, by creating packs with adaptive tools to aid in sewing clothing for differently abled students. These tools will be open to all students to access as they are of benefit to everyone. I want to see if this improves accessibility and engagement with sewing skills by disabled and neurodivergent students.

What sources will you read or reference? Share 5 to 10.

Researching Your Own Practice - Mason, John (2002)

Making Sense of Experiential Learning: Diversity in Theory and Practice. Warner Weil, Susan. McGill, Ian.

[Design without limits : designing and sewing for special needs](#) /Chase, Renée Weiss Golding S., . The eight technologies of otherness.

Gilbert I., . (2011). Why do I need a teacher when I've got Google?.

Sikes P. J., Opie C., . (2004). Doing educational research.

Verma G. K., Beard R. M., . (1981). What is educational research?.

Douglas M., . (1975). Implicit meanings.

2. What action(s) are you planning to take, and are they realistic in the time you have (Sept-Dec)?

These packs will be available during the first technical workshops the students will attend at university, commencing from 22nd October 2025. I will be creating packs with adaptive tools to aid in sewing clothing for differently abled students. The students will then complete a questionnaire regarding their experiences using the packs. I hope the plan will be realistic in the time given. I will need to produce 5 packs of tools and supply a questionnaire or organise a focus group. I had wanted the survey to be completed at the same time as using the packs, due to impending deadlines the following weeks, where students may find it difficult to find time to complete.

3. Who will be involved, and in what way? (e.g. colleagues, students, local community...). Note, if any of your participants will be under the age years of 18yrs, please seek further advice from your tutor.

Students will be engaging with the tools supplied and if necessary, applying them to use in their sewing skills inductions. There are 5 packs will be shared between students and only be given to the students I am teaching, due to the high cost of these tools. The idea is to give students a chance to sample different devices for sewing that may aid them. Unfortunately, the packs are too costly for students to keep, they will just be used in the sewing induction skills group. Students will then attend a focus group or complete a questionnaire.

4. What are the health & safety concerns, and how will you prepare for them?

- <https://canvas.arts.ac.uk/sites/explore/SitePage/42587/health-and-safety-hub>
- <https://canvas.arts.ac.uk/sites/explore/SitePage/45761/health-and-safety-policies-and-standards>

Possible injury using sharp tools, industrial sewing machines and irons– students have completed health and safety inductions regarding use of machines and irons prior to attending sewing skills workshops. We have first aid kits and can ring first aiders onsite if required. Students will be supervised during the sessions which will occur on site at CSM Kings Cross.

We can adjust the speed settings of sewing machines and are around to assist students should they need additional help.

5. How will you manage and protect any physical and / or digital data you collect, including the data of people involved?

- <https://www.bera.ac.uk/publication/ethical-guidelines-for-educational-research-fifth-edition-2024-online#consent>
- <https://www.bera.ac.uk/publication/ethical-guidelines-for-educational-research-fifth-edition-2024-online#privacy-data-storage>

Data collected will be anonymised and stored securely by using password protection and data encryption for files. I will need to research further on how to do this. I will destroy through shredding and secure disposal of paper surveys/questionnaires and ensure they are stored away under lock and key before their processing of the data and disposal. I will also need to be careful of using online services that may compromise confidentiality.

6. How will you take ethics into account in your project for participants and / or yourself?

- <https://www.bera.ac.uk/publication/ethical-guidelines-for-educational-research-fifth-edition-2024-online#responsibilities-participants>
- <https://www.bera.ac.uk/publication/ethical-guidelines-for-educational-research-fifth-edition-2024-online#responsibilities-sponsors>
- <https://www.bera.ac.uk/publication/ethical-guidelines-for-educational-research-fifth-edition-2024-online#responsibilities-wellbeing>
- See [Emotionally Demanding Research](#) PDF on Moodle

I will seek obtain formal consent from participants to use their data provided. As the project is focused around disability and neurodivergence which are protected characteristics I need to ensure that participants are comfortable divulging information and have the option to 'opt out' of questions.

I will not be using AI in this project due to the questionable ethics of such technology, both around privacy and the environment.

I acknowledge the power dynamics around being a white, cis, able-bodied woman who is in a position of authority in relation to the students/participants. I am not sure how to rectify the power imbalance at play?

* The form itself is around 300 words, so with your additions the total length will come to a maximum of about 1,050 words.