

Project Proposal

Wednesday, May 27, 2026 9:37 AM



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Component 1: Innovation & Research.

PeerPoint: A verified Student Community Platform for Resource Sharing and Academic Support.

Programme: BSc Applied Computing

Module: Changemakers: Creativity and Value Creation

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URL for the e-portfolio: [Innovation & Research \(component 1\)](#)

Ideation & Mind map

Friday, July 3, 2026 1:16 AM

Task 1- Ideation & Mind map

This project proposal explores the development of PeerPoint, a secure digital platform designed for students enrolled at UK universities. Access to the platform would be restricted to verified users through their university email address, creating a trusted community where students can safely collaborate and share resources.

PeerPoint aims to bring together a wide range of student-focused services within one easy-to-use platform. These services include textbook and academic material loans, educational supplies, ride sharing, free parking locators, recommendations for study spaces such as libraries and cafés, proofreading services, peer tutoring, student events and academic support. To make the platform simple to use, each service would be organised into its own category, allowing students to quickly find the information or support they need.

Currently, many of these services are spread across social media, university websites, social media groups and third-party applications. PeerPoint aims to solve this problem by bringing everything together into one secure and verified platform. This would allow students to access academic resources, connect with other students and find useful campus services from one place. Research shows that financial pressures can affect students' wellbeing, academic performance and even lead some students to leave university [1]. By encouraging students to share resources and reduce unnecessary costs, PeerPoint could help ease some of these financial pressures while creating a stronger student community.

The idea was chosen following an initial ideation and mind-mapping process because it addresses several common challenges faced by university students. These include the rising cost of study materials [2], finding suitable places to study, travelling to campus, accessing academic support and the lack of a single platform that brings these services together. By combining these features into one secure digital platform, PeerPoint has the potential to improve collaboration, reduce costs, enhance the overall student experience and create academic, social and environmental value for students across UK universities.



The mind map was created to generate and organise ideas that could solve challenges faced by university students. Several concepts were explored, including a student marketplace, a library study space finder and a parking application. Following the brainstorming process, PeerPoint was selected because it combines multiple student services into one secure platform, providing a more complete solution to students' needs.

One of the main themes within the mind map is innovation. PeerPoint demonstrates digital innovation by bringing together services that are currently spread across different websites, social media groups and mobile applications. Digital innovation involves using technology to improve existing processes and create new ways of solving problems [3]. By combining these services into one verified platform, students can access the support they need more easily.

Another important area is the problems faced by university students. Research shows a lot of students experience hardship due

to increasing living costs and difficulties accessing affordable learning resources[4] . These challenges affect both academic performance and student wellbeing. PeerPoint aims to reduce some of these problems by encouraging students to share resources, borrow textbooks, arrange ride sharing and access peer support.

The features included within PeerPoint were chosen because they directly respond to the needs identified during the brainstorming process. Services such as textbook loans, educational supplies, proofreading, peer tutoring, parking information and study space recommendations are all designed to improve the student experience. Organising these services into clear categories will also make the platform easy to navigate and allow students to quickly find the information they require.

The mind map also highlights the value that PeerPoint could create. The platform has the potential to create academic value by improving access to learning resources, financial value by helping students reduce everyday costs, social value by encouraging collaboration and environmental value by promoting the reuse of books and shared transport. Creating value through innovation is an important part of developing successful digital solutions [5].

Overall, the mind map helped organise ideas, identify student needs and justify the selection of PeerPoint as the final project. It demonstrates how one digital platform could bring together a range of services to improve the university experience while creating long-term value for students across UK universities.

Aim, Objectives and Research Area

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This section highlights the overall aim and objectives of the PeerPoint project, it explains the research approach that will be carried out throughout the proposal. It identifies the main research area, the research philosophy that is more suitable for the project and the search tools and academic database that will be used to gather information. This research will help ensure that the proposed digital platform is based on evidence and addresses the needs of University students.

Aim

The Aim is to design and evaluate PeerPoint, a secure digital platform that enables verified UK university students to share academic resources, access campus support services and collaborate within a trusted student community.

Objective

- To investigate the challenges faced by university students when studying, accessing academic resources, support services and affordable study materials.
- To review the existing student platforms and identify gaps that PeerPoint could address or include for students.

Research Philosophy

The research philosophy chosen for this project is Pragmatism. Pragmatism is based on selecting research methods that are most suitable for answering the research questions rather than following a single research approach [6]. This philosophy has been selected because the development of PeerPoint requires both numerical data and detailed opinions from university students.

Using a pragmatic approach allows both quantitative and qualitative research methods to be combined. The questionnaire will provide numerical data that can be analysed to identify common trends, while the interviews will allow students to explain their opinions and experiences. Using both methods will provide a more complete understanding of the challenges students face and the features they would expect from the proposed platform.

A pragmatic research philosophy is appropriate because PeerPoint is designed to solve practical problems experienced by university students. Rather than relying on one research method, combining different methods will provide stronger evidence to support the design and future development of the platform.

Research Area

The main research area focuses on the challenges experienced by university students and how digital technology can be used to improve access to academic resources and campus support services. The research will investigate topics such as student collaboration, resource sharing, the cost of living, transport, access to study spaces and the use of digital platforms within higher education.

Research into student wellbeing, financial pressures and digital learning technologies will provide evidence that supports the development of the proposed platform. Understanding these areas will help ensure that PeerPoint is designed around the needs of university students. The information collected through both primary and secondary research will be used to identify the most valuable features and help create a platform that supports students throughout their university experience.

Search Strategy / Databases

Information will be gathered from reliable academic sources. Using peer-reviewed journals and academic databases helps ensure that research is accurate, reliable and based on evidence [7]. The main databases that will be used include Google Scholar, IEEE Xplore, ACM Digital Library, ScienceDirect and the university's online library. These databases contain research relating to university education, digital technologies, student wellbeing and software development.

A range of keywords will be used during the literature search, including "Financial pressure", "resource sharing", "digital learning platforms", "higher education technology", "student wellbeing" and "cost of living". Using different keywords will help identify and filter relevant studies from different research areas and provide an understanding of the issues affecting

university students.

Research strategies

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This section explains the research strategies that will be used to support the development of PeerPoint. It outlines how data will be collected, how research will stay valid and reliable, and the ethical considerations that must be followed when collecting information from participants. It will also cover the methods that will be used to analyse the data and how the results can be used to improve the design of the proposed digital platform.

Validity

Validity refers to whether the research measures what it is intended to measure. In order to ensure valid results, the questionnaire and interviews will be aimed at mainly university students, as they represent the target users of PeerPoint. The questionnaire will focus on the main problems identified in this project. This will then help ensure that the information collected is relevant and useful to the proposed project.

Reliability

Reliability refers to the consistency of the research. To be able to improve reliability, all participants will be asked the exact same questions through the questionnaire, using the same wording and order of questions. Keeping the questionnaire the same for all participants will make it easier to compare responses and reduce the chance of inconsistent results [8].

Generalisability

This refers to whether findings can be applied to a wider group of people [9]. As PeerPoint is designed for UK University students, participants from universities, courses and year groups will be invited to take part in the research. This will give a better understanding of opinions and make the findings more tailored to target audience.

Ethical Consideration

These are important to ensure research is carried out responsibly and in line with research ethics. All participants will be asked to give informed consent before taking part in the research, and participation will be completely voluntary. Responses will remain anonymous, and any personal information collected will be stored securely in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation [10]. Participants will also have the right to withdraw from the research at any time without giving a reason. Following these ethical principles will help protect participants and ensure that the research is carried out fairly and responsibly.

Research Strategies

Both primary and secondary research will be used to gather information that will support the development of PeerPoint. Using both primary and secondary research provides a broader understanding of a research problem and helps improve the quality of research findings [11]. Primary research will include an online questionnaire and a small number of semi-structured interviews with university students. These methods have been selected because they allow students to share their own experiences and opinions about the proposed platform. Questionnaires are useful for collecting information from a large number of participants, while semi-structured interviews provide more detailed responses and allow participants to explain their opinions further [12]. Secondary research will involve reviewing academic journals, books, government reports and university websites. This information will help identify existing research relating to student wellbeing, the cost of living, digital learning platforms and resource sharing in higher education and it will also show the gaps of improvements needed for the proposed platform. Secondary research provides background information and supports project decisions using existing evidence [13].

Data Collection

Data will be collected from students currently studying at UK universities, as they represent the target users of the PeerPoint digital platform. Selecting participants from the target population helps ensure that the research findings are relevant to the aims of the project [14]. An online questionnaire will be distributed to approximately 40 university students from different universities, courses and year groups. The questionnaire will contain a mixture of multiple-choice questions, rating scales and

a small number of open-ended questions. Using a combination of closed and open-ended questions allows researchers to collect both quantitative and qualitative data [15]. Between five and ten students will also be invited to take part in short semi-structured interviews. These interviews will allow participants to explain their experiences in more detail and provide suggestions that may improve the PeerPoint platform idea. Combining both research methods will provide a broader understanding of the needs and expectations of university students.

Pilot Questionnaire

Before handing out the questionnaires, a pilot study will be carried out with approximately five university students. Pilot studies are used to identify unclear questions, improve the wording of a questionnaire and increase the quality of the research before the main study begins [16]. Feedback that is collected during the pilot study will be used to make any necessary improvements before the questionnaire is shared with a larger sample of participants. This will help improve the validity and reliability of the research.

Data Analysis

The data collected during this research will be analysed using both quantitative and qualitative methods. Quantitative analysis is used to examine numerical data by identifying patterns, trends and relationships, while qualitative analysis focuses on understanding opinions, experiences and behaviours [17]. Quantitative data collected from the questionnaire will be analysed using Microsoft Excel. This will make it easier to compare responses and identify the features that students consider most important. Qualitative data collected from interviews and open-ended questionnaire responses will be analysed by looking out for common themes and grouping similar responses together. Thematic analysis is a commonly used method for analysing qualitative data [18]. This will provide a better understanding of students' experiences and help explain the reasons behind the numerical findings. The use of both quantitative and qualitative data will provide a more complete understanding of students' needs and help ensure that the development of PeerPoint is based on reliable evidence rather than assumptions. Using mixed methods research can improve the depth and quality of research findings [19].

Reference List

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Appendix

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Appendix A – Pilot Questionnaire

PeerPoint Student Research Questionnaire

The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather feedback from university students about a Digital platform called PeerPoint. All responses are anonymous and would only be used for the research project.

Section 1- About You

1. What year of study are you currently in?

- ☐ Foundation Year
- ☐ Year 1
- ☐ Year 2
- ☐ Year 3
- ☐ Postgraduate

2. Which course are you studying?

3. Where in the UK are you currently studying?

Section 2 – Student Experience

3. Which of the following challenges do you experience at university? (Tick all that apply.)

- ☐ High academic supply costs
- ☐ Finding study spaces
- ☐ Transport costs
- ☐ Accessing academic support
- ☐ Finding parking
- ☐ Cost of living

☐ Other _____

4. How do you currently find study resources?

☐ University website

☐ Social media

☐ Friends

☐ Library

☐ Other _____

Section 3 – PeerPoint

5. Would you use a platform like PeerPoint?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Maybe

6. Which features would you use the most? (Tick all that apply.)

☐ Book Loans

☐ Educational Supplies

☐ Ride Sharing

☐ Parking Locator

☐ Study Space Finder

☐ Proofreading

☐ Peer Tutoring

☐ Student Events

7. How important is university email verification?

☐ Very Important

☐ Important

☐ Neutral

☐ Not Important

Section 4 – Your Opinion

8. What feature would you like PeerPoint to include that has not already been mentioned and that you would find useful?

9. What improvements would you suggest for PeerPoint?

10. Do you have any additional comments?

Appendix B – Pilot Feedback

Pilot Study summary

A pilot questionnaire was completed by five random students from 5 different universities in the UK, this was to identify any unclear questions and improve the final questionnaire before distributing it to a large number of students. The 5 participants were asked to comment on the clarity, relevance and length of the questionnaire.

Pilot Feedback Table

Participant Feedback	Improvement Made
Question 2 was unclear.	The wording was simplified.
More answer options needed for the feature selection question.	An “Other” option was added.
The questionnaire needed a brief explanation of PeerPoint.	A short introduction explaining the purpose of the digital platform.
Some questions seemed repetitive.	The repeated questions were removed.
Suggested adding a question about parking.	A question about parking and transport was added.

Appendix C – Sample Interview Questions

1. What challenges do you face when accessing academic resources?
2. Would you use a platform such as PeerPoint? Why?
3. Which feature would you use the most?
4. How could PeerPoint improve your university experience?
5. What additional features would you like to see?
6. Do you have any other suggestions?

Appendix D – Mindmap



Appendix E – Gantt charts

PROJECT ACTIVITIES	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7	W8	W9	W10	W11	W12
1. Choose Project Idea												
2. Create Mind Map												
3. Aims and Objectives												
4. Research Strategy												
5. Questionnaire Design												
6. Pilot Survey												
7. Data Collection												
8. Data Analysis												
9. PeerPoint System Design												
10. Final Project Proposal												

Project Duration: 12 weeks.

Appendix F – Research areas

Google Scholar

Google Scholar

"financial pressures" AND "students' wellbeing"

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... However, our research extends these findings by exploring the ways these **financial pressures** affect students' academic and personal experiences. Drawing on quantitative and ...
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L Liu, PS Morrison, D Zeng - Applied research in quality of life, 2024 - Springer
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Zhenyang Li

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Applied Geography, August 2026
Yingqi Xu, Tao Wang, Yiheng Zhu

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SEARCH TIPS for text fields

Boolean searches

Use the boolean operators **AND**, **OR**, and **NOT** to narrow or broaden your search results.

By default, an **AND** relationship is assumed between Search Within terms unless you specify a different operator in the **Edit Query** input.

By default, an **OR** relationship is assumed between **words** within 1 Search Within term.

Searching for phrases

Enclose your search terms within **double** quotation

Feedback

Appendix G- Poster

