



MODULE CODE: ECDE7020

ASSESSMENT COMPONENT: 3

STUDENT NAME: Linghua Zeng

STUDENT NUMBER: 2308290

Doctorate in Education (EdD)

APPLICATION FOR ETHICAL APPROVAL

RESEARCH STUDENTS

This form is to be completed by the student within **SIX** months for full-time students and **TWELVE** months for part time students, after the commencement of the research degree or following progression to Part Two of your course.

Once complete, submit this form via the **MyTSD Doctoral College Portal** at (<https://mytsd.uwtsd.ac.uk>).

This document is also available in Welsh.

RESEARCH STAFF ONLY

All communications relating to this application during its processing must be in writing and emailed to pgresearch@uwtsd.ac.uk, with the title 'Ethical Approval' followed by your name.

STUDENTS ON UNDERGRADUATE OR TAUGHT MASTERS PROGRAMMES should submit this form (and receive the outcome) via systems explained to you by the supervisor/module leader.

In order for research to result in benefit and minimise risk of harm, it must be conducted ethically. A researcher may not be covered by the University's insurance if ethical approval has not been obtained prior to commencement.

The University follows the OECD Frascati manual definition of **research activity**: "creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of man, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications". As such this covers activities undertaken by members of staff, postgraduate research students, and both taught postgraduate and undergraduate students working on dissertations/projects.

The individual undertaking the research activity is known as the "principal researcher".

Ethical approval is not required for routine audits, performance reviews, quality assurance studies, testing within normal educational requirements, and literary or artistic criticism.

Please read the notes for guidance before completing ALL sections of the form.

This form must be completed and approved prior to undertaking any research activity. Please see Checklist for details of process for different categories of application.

SECTION A: About You (Principal Researcher)

1	Full Name:	Linghua zeng			
2	Tick all boxes that apply:	Member of staff:	☐	Honorary research fellow:	☐
	Undergraduate Student	☐	Taught Postgraduate Student	☒	Postgraduate Research Student
3	Institute/Academic Discipline/Centre:	Education and humanity			
4	Campus:	swansea			
5	E-mail address:	2308290@student.uwtsd.ac.uk			
6	Contact Telephone Number:	7775582763			
For students:					

7	Student Number:	2308290
8	Programme of Study:	EdD
9	Director of Studies/Supervisor:	Catherine Morgan

SECTION B: Approval for Research Activity

1	Has the research activity received approval in principle? (please check the Guidance Notes as to the appropriate approval process for different levels of research by different categories of individual)	YES	☒	NO	☐
					Date
2	If Yes, please indicate source of approval (and date where known): Approval in principle must be obtained from the relevant source prior to seeking ethical approval	Research Degrees Committee	☐		
		Institute Research Committee	☐		
		Catherine Morgan	☒		6/5/2025

SECTION C: Internal and External Ethical Guidance Materials

	Please list the core ethical guidance documents that have been referred to during the completion of this form (including any discipline-specific codes of research ethics, location-specific codes of research ethics, and also any specific ethical guidance relating to the proposed methodology). Please tick to confirm that your research proposal adheres to these codes and guidelines. You may add rows to this table if needed.	
1	UWTSD Research Ethics & Integrity Code of Practice	☐
2	UWTSD Research Data Management Policy	☐
3	<i>Bera(2024) ethical guidelines for educational research</i>	☒

SECTION D: External Collaborative Research Activity

If there are external collaborators then you should gain consent from the contact persons to share their personal data with the university. If there are no external collaborators then leave this section blank and continue to section E.

1	Institution	
2	Contact person name	
3	Contact person e-mail address	
4	Is your research externally funded?	YES ☐ NO ☐
5	Are you in receipt of a KESS scholarship?	YES ☐ NO ☐
6	Are you specifically employed to undertake this research in either a	Voluntary YES ☐ NO ☐
7	paid or voluntary capacity?	Employed YES ☐ NO ☐
8	Is the research being undertaken within an existing UWTSD Athrofa Professional Learning Partnership (APLP)?	If YES then the permission question below does not need to be answered. YES ☐ NO ☐

9	Has permission to undertake the research has been provided by the partner organisation?	(If YES attach copy) If NO the application cannot continue	YES	☐	NO	☐
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Where research activity is carried out in collaboration with an external organisation

10	Does this organisation have its own ethics approval system?	YES	☐	NO	☐
	If Yes, please attach a copy of any final approval (or interim approval) from the organisation (this may be a copy of an email if appropriate).				

SECTION E: Details of Research Activity

1	Indicative title:	Exploring the Teaching Situation of Nursery School Teachers in Wales from the Perspective of Chinese Preschool Education Professionals			
2	Proposed start date:	10/5/2025	Proposed end date:	30/9/2025	
	Introduction to the Research (maximum 300 words per section) Ensure that you write for a <u>Non-Specialist Audience</u> when outlining your response to the points below: <i>Purpose of Research Activity</i> <i>Proposed Research Question</i> <i>Aims of Research Activity</i> <i>Objectives of Research Activity</i> Demonstrate, briefly, how Existing Research has informed the proposed activity and explain <i>What the research activity will add to the body of knowledge</i> <i>How it addresses an area of importance.</i>				
3	Purpose of Research Activity As a Chinese early childhood education researcher, I am conducting research to gain access to a nursery school in Wales that uses the Foundation Phase as its educational framework. First, I need to understand the basic situation of nursery schools in Wales. For example: approximately how many students are in a school, how many teachers and related staff, and how these teachers arrange their work. I want to understand the differences in basic conditions between nursery schools in Wales and kindergartens in China. In the Foundation Phase, there is an emphasis on learning through play activities to accomplish objectives across seven areas. How is this put into practice? What role do teachers play in this process? Additionally, the Foundation Phase requires teachers to observe children, so how do Welsh teachers operationalise this? Both learning through play and child observation are professional skills that kindergarten teachers in China currently want to understand and develop, and these are also professional skills that I, as an early childhood education researcher, want to enhance. (this box should expand as you type)				
4	Research Question - What are the structural characteristics of Welsh nursery schools under the Foundation Phase framework? - How do teachers in Welsh nursery schools facilitate learning through play-based activities within the Foundation Phase framework? - What roles do teachers assume during play-based learning in Welsh nursery schools? - How do teachers in Welsh nursery schools systematically document and analyze children's learning behaviours through observation? (this box should expand as you type)				

5	Aims of Research Activity Through practical qualitative research, from the perspective of a Chinese early childhood education researcher, I aim to gain a basic understanding of nursery schools in Wales, learning about the structural characteristics of nursery schools based on the Foundation Phase framework. Through research, I will explore what teaching strategies teachers in Wales nursery schools use in play-based learning to help young children learn. I will discover how Wales nursery school teachers observe children and put these observations into practice. I will summarise the strengths of Wales nursery school teachers in teaching strategies and child observation, analysing whether there are professional skills within these strategies that could be beneficial for teaching activities in Chinese kindergartens. (this box should expand as you type)
6	Objectives of Research Activity Currently, there is limited academic research on early child education in Wales within the existing Chinese literature. Most current studies focus on policy text research, lacking authentic data. There is a notable research gap in understanding the reality of Welsh nursery schools from the perspective of Chinese early childhood education researchers. This study aims to enter Welsh nursery schools from the perspective of a Chinese early childhood education researcher to obtain authentic data, providing information about the Welsh region for the development of early childhood education in China. (this box should expand as you type)
	Proposed methods (maximum 600 words) Provide a brief summary of all the methods that may be used in the research activity, making it clear what specific techniques may be used. If methods other than those listed in this section are deemed appropriate later, additional ethical approval for those methods will be needed. You do not need to justify the methods here, but should instead describe how you intend to collect the data necessary for you to complete your project.
7	Interpretivism Interpretivism forms the foundational framework as it acknowledges social reality as constructed through subjective experiences (Mukherji & Albion, 2023). This approach enables me to understand Welsh pre-school education through the lens of my Chinese background, allowing meaningful analysis of educational practices as culturally embedded experiences rather than objective facts (William, 2024). Reflexive Thinking Reflexive thinking enhances research validity through critical self-analysis (Alvesson, 2009). This method allows me to organize my experiences with Chinese kindergarten practices and personal professional skills, creating clear parameters for comparing educational approaches. By maintaining reflexive documentation throughout, I can mitigate excessive subjectivity while navigating cross-cultural educational contexts (Creswell, 2023). Participant Observation Participant observation allows immersion in classroom activities while engaging with children and educators. This method provides firsthand experience of teaching approaches and children's responses, revealing cultural nuances that might not emerge during formal interviews (Kawulich, 2005). Non-Participant Observation Non-participant observation maintains the natural state of the classroom environment (Cohen & Morrison, 2018). By systematically recording teacher behaviors, daily routines, and pedagogical responses to various situations, this method captures authentic educational practices with minimal researcher influence (Patton, 2015). Semi-Structured Interviews Semi-structured interviews with educators explore their pedagogical intentions and educational philosophies. This method provides flexibility while ensuring core topics are addressed (Bryman, 2016), allowing insights into the rationale behind observed teaching practices and generating rich data about professional decision-making processes. Field Interviews

	Field interviews capture educators' immediate reflections during or shortly after teaching episodes (Spradley, 1980). This method provides timely insights into teacher behaviors and decision-making processes, preventing memory distortion and offering contextually grounded understanding of pedagogical choices in Welsh nursery settings. Alvesson, M., Sköldbberg, K. and Davies, S. (2009) <i>Reflexive methodology : new vistas for qualitative research</i>. 2nd ed. London: SAGE. Bryman, A. (2016) <i>Social research methods</i>. 5th ed. Oxford ; Oxford University Press. Cohen, L., Manion, L. and Morrison, K. (Keith R.B.) (2018) <i>Research methods in education</i>. Eighth edition. London: Routledge. Creswell, J.W. and Poth, C.N. (2023) <i>Qualitative inquiry and research design : choosing among five approaches</i>. Fifth edition. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage. Mukherji, P. and Albon, D. (2023) <i>Research methods in early childhood : an introductory guide</i>. 4th edition. London ; SAGE Publications Ltd. Patton, M.Q. (2015) <i>Qualitative research and evaluation methods</i>. 4th edition. Los Angeles: SAGE. Spradley, J.P. (1980) <i>Participant observation</i>. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston. William, A. (2024). Interpretivism or Constructivism: Navigating Research Paradigms in Social Science Research. <i>International journal of research publications</i>, 143(1). doi:https://doi.org/10.47119/ijrp1001431220246122. (this box should expand as you type)		
	Location of research activity Identify all locations where research activity will take place.		
8	A nursery school in the Wales region based on the Foundation Phase Framework (this box should expand as you type)		
	Research activity outside of the UK If research activity will take place overseas, you are responsible for ensuring that local ethical considerations are complied with and that the relevant permissions are sought. Specify any local guidelines (e.g. from local professional associations/learned societies/universities) that exist and whether these involve any ethical stipulations beyond those usual in the UK (provide details of any licenses or permissions required). Also specify whether there are any specific ethical issues raised by the local context in which the research activity is taking place, for example, particular cultural and/or legal sensitivities or vulnerabilities of participants. If you live in the country where you will do the research then please state this.		
9	This research will not be conducted outside the UK. However, in this study, I will be researching from the perspective of a Chinese early childhood education scholar based on my previous learning and work experience in China. I will engage in reflexive thinking about my understanding of Chinese kindergartens, thus the research will involve content related to China. Therefore, during the research process, any materials and work content related to my experiences in China that involve others or schools will be anonymized to ensure privacy protection. Regarding content about Chinese kindergartens, I will seek supporting literature from publicly accessible academic websites to ensure the content is openly available for use. Additionally, I will be studying in Wales to understand how local nursery schools arrange children's learning, and through observing teachers' instructional behaviors, I will organize and enhance my own professional knowledge. However, I will not use Chinese teaching techniques in Wales without permission. (this box should expand as you type)		
10	Use of documentation not in the public domain: Are any documents NOT publicly available?	NO YES	☒ ☐
11	If Yes, please provide details here of how you will gain access to specific documentation that is not in the public domain and that this is in accordance with the current data protection law of the country in question and that of England and Wales. (this box should expand as you type)		

	Does your research relate to one or more of the seven aims of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015?	YES	NO
12	A prosperous Wales	☐	☒
13	A resilient Wales	☐	☒
14	A healthier Wales	☐	☒
15	A more equal Wales	☐	☒
16	A Wales of cohesive communities	☐	☒
17	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	☐	☒
18	A globally responsible Wales	☐	☒
19	If YES to any of the above, please give details:		
	This research does not have a direct connection with the seven aims of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2025, but as the study involves the differences between early childhood education in Wales and China from the researcher's perspective, it may potentially provide information for Welsh early childhood education development from a globalised viewpoint. (this box should expand as you type)		

SECTION F: Scope of Research Activity

	Will the research activity include:	YES	NO
1	Use of a questionnaire or similar research instrument?	☐	☒
2	Use of interviews?	☒	☐
3	Use of focus groups?	☐	☒
4	Use of participant diaries?	☒	☐
5	Use of video or audio recording?	☒	☐
6	Use of computer-generated log files?	☐	☐
7	Participant observation with their knowledge?	☒	☐
8	Participant observation without their knowledge?	☐	☒
9	Access to personal or confidential information without the participants' specific consent?	☐	☒
10	Administration of any questions, test stimuli, presentation that may be experienced as physically, mentally or emotionally harmful / offensive?	☐	☒
11	Performance of any acts which may cause embarrassment or affect self-esteem?	☐	☒
12	Investigation of participants involved in illegal activities?	☐	☒
13	Use of procedures that involve deception?	☐	☒
14	Administration of any substance, agent or placebo?	☐	☒
15	Working with live vertebrate animals?	☐	☒
16	Procedures that may have a negative impact on the environment?	☐	☒
17	Other primary data collection methods. Please indicate the type of data collection method(s) below.	☐	☒

Details of any other primary data collection method: (this box should expand as you type)		
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If NO to every question, then the research activity is (ethically) low risk and **may** be exempt from **some** of the following sections (please refer to Guidance Notes).

If YES to any question, then no research activity should be undertaken until full ethical approval has been obtained.

SECTION G: Intended Participants

If there are no participants then do not complete this section, but go directly to section H.

Who are the intended participants:		YES	NO
1	Students or staff at the University?	☐	☒
2	Adults (over the age of 18 and competent to give consent)?	☒	☐
3	Vulnerable adults?	☐	☒
4	Children and Young People under the age of 18? (Consent from Parent, Carer or Guardian will be required)	☒	☐
5	Prisoners?	☐	☒
6	Young offenders?	☐	☒
7	Those who could be considered to have a particularly dependent relationship with the investigator or a gatekeeper?	☒	☐
8	People engaged in illegal activities?	☐	☒
9	Others. Please indicate the participants below, and specifically any group who may be unable to give consent.	☐	☒
Details of any other participant groups: (this box should expand as you type)			

Participant numbers and source		
Provide an estimate of the expected number of participants. How will you identify participants and how will they be recruited?		
10	How many participants are expected?	When selecting a nursery school, a gatekeeper will be needed to facilitate access to a nursery school that aligns with the Foundation Phase framework. I will develop a basic understanding of the entire nursery school's population, learning how many students and teachers are present. This will help complete research question 1. For this question, I may need 1-3 nursery school managers to obtain relatively accurate answers. Regarding teacher observation, I will primarily observe 3-5 nursery teachers. The reason for selecting this number is that I am currently unsure whether teachers' responsibilities within the school are consistent. I am initially assuming there are 3-5 different activity areas, and these teachers may be responsible for different teaching tasks. I hope to observe and understand teachers across different activities.

		Additionally, I need to interview teachers. Under the assumption of 3-5 different area activities, I will seek two teachers from each teaching activity for interviews. Therefore, the number of interviewees will include teachers and school managers from the initial basic understanding phase. The total number will be between 7-13 people. As this research is conducted in a nursery school, children's participation is essential. In this study, I anticipate that 10-15 children may come into the observational perspective. I may observe the daily lives of 3-5 children in the nursery school, using observation skills learned in Welsh nursery schools. For these children who may become observation subjects, I will need to obtain written consent from their parents or guardians, so I will also contact the students' parents. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
11	Who will the participants be?	Nursery teacher, nursery manager, pupil, pupil's parents <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
12	How will you identify the participants?	For the gatekeeper prior to entering the nursery, I hope to have my course supervisor serve as the gatekeeper for this research, accessing the school through local connections. By visiting the school's headteacher or relevant administrative staff, I will explain the research content, obtain basic school information, and understand the suitable range of teachers and children for observation. Through subsequent meetings, I will separately inform teachers, parents and pupils, obtain appropriate written consent, and then determine the scope of teacher and child participants. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>

Information for participants:		YES	NO	N/A
13	Will you describe the main research procedures to participants in advance, so that they are informed about what to expect?	☒	☐	☐
14	Will you tell participants that their participation is voluntary?	☒	☐	☐
15	Will you obtain written consent for participation?	☐	☐	☒
16	Will you explain to participants that refusal to participate in the research will not affect their treatment or education (if relevant)?	☒	☐	☐
17	If the research is observational, will you ask participants for their consent to being observed?	☒	☐	☐
18	Will you tell participants that they may withdraw from the research at any time and for any reason?	☒	☐	☐
19	With questionnaires, will you give participants the option of omitting questions they do not want to answer?	☐	☐	☒
20	Will you tell participants that their data will be treated with full confidentiality and that, if published, it will not be identifiable as theirs?	☒	☐	☐
21	Will you debrief participants at the end of their participation, in a way appropriate to the type of research undertaken?	☒	☐	☐
22	If NO to any of above questions, please give an explanation			
	Current participants include teachers, nursery management staff, pupils' parents, and pupils themselves. As nursery school pupils are aged 3-5, they may not be able to understand the content of written consent. Therefore, in this regard, I need to confirm with both pupils and their parents. With the agreement of both the pupil and their parents, the parents will sign the written consent on			

	behalf of the pupil. Thus, pupils do not need to provide written signatures. Due to the involvement of young children, this special circumstance is hereby clarified. In this research, I will not be using questionnaires. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
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	Information for participants:	YES	NO	N/A
24	Will participants be paid?	☐	☒	☐
25	Is specialist electrical or other equipment to be used with participants?	☐	☒	☐
26	Are there any financial or other interests to the investigator or University arising from this study?	☐	☒	☐
27	Will the research activity involve deliberately misleading participants in any way, or the partial or full concealment of the specific study aims?	☐	☒	☐
28	If YES to any question, please provide full details			
	<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>			

SECTION H: Anticipated Risks

	Outline any anticipated risks that may adversely affect any of the participants, the researchers and/or the University, and the steps that will be taken to address them. If you have completed a full risk assessment (for example as required by a laboratory, or external research collaborator) you may append that to this form.	
1	Full risk assessment completed and appended?	Yes ☐ No ☒
2	Risks to participants For example: sector-specific health & safety, emotional distress, financial disclosure, physical harm, transfer of personal data, sensitive organisational information	
	Risk to participants: Emotional distress Transfer of personal data <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	<i>How you will mitigate the risk to participants:</i> Alleviating Emotional Distress Participants may worry about adverse consequences resulting from the recording of their speech and actions during interviews or daily teaching. To alleviate these concerns, I will implement the following measures: 1. Strict Anonymisation Process: All personal information relating to participants will be anonymised and obscured to ensure that third parties cannot trace it back to specific individuals. 2. Voluntary Omission Mechanism: Before the research begins, I will specifically ask participants if there is any content they do not wish to be recorded, and I will respect their wishes to the extent possible. 3. Content Processing Guarantee: For sensitive content that cannot avoid being recorded, secondary processing will be conducted during the research process, including obscuring or appropriate modification to protect participants' privacy. After processing is completed, I will inform and show the results to participants,

	striving to ensure they feel respected whilst maintaining the validity of research data. Personal Data Management Plan Records of personal data are crucial for research, as they prevent situations where I cannot distinguish between participants in later stages of research. Facing this issue, I need to communicate with relevant participants and inform them of the following measures: 1. Secure Data Access: Original personal data will only be viewed by the researcher, ensuring data security. 2. Anonymisation of Displayed Materials: All research materials displayed externally will have participants' personal identifying information thoroughly removed or obscured. 3. Data Confidentiality Agreement: Data protection regulations will be strictly adhered to, ensuring participants' privacy rights are not violated. I will elaborate on the above measures in the written informed consent form and include a dedicated section for participants to specify content they are unwilling to have recorded, ensuring thorough communication and confirmation before and after the research. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
3	If research activity may include sensitive, embarrassing or upsetting topics (e.g. sexual activity, drug use) or issues likely to disclose information requiring further action (e.g. criminal activity), give details of the procedures to deal with these issues, including any support/advice (e.g. helpline numbers) to be offered to participants. Note that where applicable, consent procedures should make it clear that if something potentially or actually illegal is discovered in the course of a project, it may need to be disclosed to the proper authorities
	Sensitive situations may arise during early childhood education research. As my research requires authentic recording of interactions between teachers and students in nursery schools to analyse teaching strategies and their effects, some parents may express concerns about the recording of specific behaviours or situations involving their children. To address this, I plan to communicate thoroughly with parents before the research begins to understand what content they wish to avoid recording. However, situations may arise during the research where certain rare teaching strategies of significant research value happen to involve children's behaviours that parents prefer not to be recorded. When faced with such valuable data, I propose the following approach: first, complete recording will be conducted, followed by appropriate processing of the content to obscure relevant sensitive information, then the processed content will be provided to the relevant parents for review and confirmation, ensuring these recordings do not cause any distress to the children or their families. This method ensures both the integrity and value of research data whilst fully respecting and protecting the privacy interests of parents and children. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
4	Risks to the investigator For example: personal health & safety, physical harm, emotional distress, risk of accusation of harm/impropriety, conflict of interest
	Risk to the investigator: emotional distress risk of accusation of impropriety <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i> <i>How you will mitigate the risk to the investigator:</i> As a non-native English speaker conducting early childhood education research in Wales, my main emotional distress stems from language barriers. My mother tongue is Chinese, my spoken English is still lacking, and I have even less mastery of Welsh, which may

		create communication pressure and frustration during the research process. To address this challenge, I will strive to improve my spoken English skills in the early stages of research and learn basic Welsh. When encountering situations where I struggle to express myself or understand others, I will actively seek support from local language assistants to ensure accurate understanding of nuanced communications in teaching contexts. Furthermore, I will maintain an open mindset, proactively explain my language limitations to participants, and transform these cultural differences into a unique research perspective rather than a barrier. Regarding the risk of being accused of inappropriate behaviour, as a researcher with a Chinese preschool education background, I believe cultural differences in teaching methods may lead to misunderstandings. To avoid this risk, I will strictly limit my role to that of an observer. Even in participatory observation, I will avoid introducing my own teaching methods and instead focus on learning and following local practices in Welsh nursery schools. Additionally, I will maintain transparent communication with all relevant parties, explaining the research process and objectives in detail, providing regular updates on research progress, and promptly adjusting methods that might cause misunderstandings. By maintaining a professional image and conduct throughout the research process, I will work to build trust relationships, minimise the possibility of being misunderstood, and ensure the smooth progress of research and protection of my personal reputation. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
5	University/institutional risks For example: adverse publicity, financial loss, data protection	
	Risk to the University: adverse publicity <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	<i>How you will mitigate the risk to the University:</i> This research involves a sensitive group (young children), and ethical controversies arising from my personal research could potentially affect the university's reputation. To reduce this risk, I need to follow strict ethical review processes, adhering to the guiding principles of the university ethics committee throughout, regularly reporting research progress, and ensuring each stage of research meets the required standards. Additionally, I will invite participants: nursery management, teachers and parent representatives to monitor the research process to ensure the protection of rights on both sides. I will also regularly present research findings after

		anonymising and obscuring the recorded content, such as aspects related to the school. This will allow relevant participants to understand the parts that involve them, avoiding misunderstandings. (this box should expand as you type)
6	Environmental risks For example: accidental spillage of pollutants, damage to local ecosystems	
	Risk to the environment: This research is primarily based on observation, recording and analysis, therefore no obvious environmental pollution risks exist. Research activities will be conducted within the existing nursery environment and will not place additional burden on or cause damage to the environment. (this box should expand as you type)	How you will mitigate the risk to environment: (this box should expand as you type)

Disclosure and Barring Service				
	If the research activity involves children or vulnerable adults, a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate must be obtained before any contact with such participants.	YES	NO	N/A
7	Does your research require you to hold a current DBS Certificate?	☒	☐	☐
8	If YES, please give the certificate number. If the certificate number is not available please write "Pending"; in this case any ethical approval will be subject to providing the appropriate certificate number.	Pending		

SECTION I: Feedback, Consent and Confidentiality

1	Feedback What de-briefing and feedback will be provided to participants, how will this be done and when? Before beginning the research, I will obtain permission to enter the school by verbally introducing research objectives and potential research methods to the managers of Welsh nursery schools. Following this, I will provide a more detailed introduction to management and teachers through a formal meeting, tentatively using a PowerPoint presentation for explanation, and explaining the observation and interview procedures to participating teachers, as well as explaining participants' relevant rights. Then, through meetings with teachers and parents, I will provide research explanations and offer written informed consent forms during the meeting; simultaneously explaining the purpose of the researcher's presence to children using simple language suitable for their understanding. Only after both parents and students agree and informed consent forms are obtained will I observe and record children's behaviour. During the research process, I will provide brief progress updates to participating teachers weekly. I will record observations of teaching activities observed each day, and use weekends to make revisions, ensuring participants' personal data is not leaked. All participants may ask questions at any time. After observations conclude, I will provide school managers with a written summary of general findings that does not include assessments of individual teachers, while separately providing participating teachers with observation records relating only to their own classrooms. These summaries will objectively present observed practices without evaluative judgments, and feedback meetings will be arranged within two weeks after observations are completed. After interviews conclude, I will provide interviewees with interview records for verification. Participants may request modifications or clarifications of their responses. The final interview content will be provided to relevant participants in electronic form according to their needs.
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	At the conclusion of the research, I will prepare a comprehensive report summarising the main findings, hold a presentation session for all adult participants, and include a question-and-answer session to address any concerns. All feedback will respect confidentiality agreements and be appropriately adjusted according to the characteristics of each participant group. No identifiable information about children will be shared in any feedback materials. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
2	Informed consent Describe the arrangements to inform potential participants, before providing consent, of what is involved in participating. Describe the arrangements for participants to provide full consent before data collection begins. If gaining consent in this way is inappropriate, explain how consent will be obtained and recorded in accordance with prevailing data protection legislation. Before beginning the research, I will apply for legal permission to enter and observe from Welsh nursery school managers. I will explain the research purpose, process and their right to refuse participation to managers, teachers and parents through meetings. For children, I will provide verbal explanations with the help of teachers. All adult participants will sign written consent forms. For children, I will repeatedly confirm their willingness to participate through their teachers and guardians, with guardians signing consent forms on their behalf. When explaining the research to children, I will use simple language they can understand, with multiple explanations and confirmations provided through teachers and parents. Written observation records will only be shared with specific individuals: school managers will receive general findings that do not evaluate individual teachers; participating teachers will only receive observation records about their own teaching behaviours; parents may request summary feedback on classroom practices that does not identify specific children. For all participants who have behaviours they do not wish to be recorded, I will include a section in the informed consent form for them to provide this information, ensuring such incidents are not used. For sensitive content that cannot be avoided in recording, secondary processing will be conducted during the research, including obscuring or appropriate modifications to protect participants' privacy, whilst informing relevant participants or their guardians, thereby not affecting the validity of research data. I will avoid written records, using password-protected mobile phones or laptops for recording, with only myself having access to the original materials, guaranteeing that participants' personal data is not leaked. If photographs or audio recordings are needed, I will first confirm whether venue policies permit this and whether relevant individuals consent to being recorded. All images of children will be anonymised through techniques such as pixelation to protect their identities. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
3	Confidentiality / Anonymity Set out how anonymity of participants and confidentiality will be ensured in any outputs. If anonymity is not being offered, explain why this is the case. For the privacy of the nursery and kindergarten, I will first consult with the relevant management personnel regarding confidentiality requirements. The school's privacy will be protected through pseudonymisation and obscuring of geographical locations. Regarding participants' personal information, pseudonymisation and anonymisation measures will be implemented. This will help prevent any emotional distress that might arise from personal information revealed during interviews or teaching activities. Concerning children's privacy, if photography is permitted during the research, all images of children will be pixelated and their real names will not be used in the written report. All raw data will be accessible only to myself as the researcher. Data will be stored in password-protected documents to prevent information breaches. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>

SECTION J: Data Protection and Storage

	Does the research activity involve personal data (as defined by the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 "GDPR" and the Data Protection Act 2018 "DPA")?	YES	NO
1	"Personal data" means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'). An identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person. Any video or audio recordings of participants is considered to be personal data.	☒	☐
	If YES, provide a description of the data and explain why this data needs to be collected:		
2	In the study, researchers will record basic personal information of participants including name, gender, job role, and years of experience. This information is needed to organize data properly and avoid confusion when reviewing multiple observations and interviews. No sensitive personal details will be collected. Interview content will be audio recorded to ensure accurate transcription and to help with analysis in later research stages. Some classroom activities may be photographed to document teaching practices. Since these photographs include people's images, especially children, all faces and identifying features will be blurred. All participants (or children's guardians) will be informed about photography and can choose not to be photographed. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
	Does it involve special category data (as defined by the GDPR)?	YES	NO
3	"Special category data" means sensitive personal data consisting of information as to the data subjects' – (a) racial or ethnic origin, (b) political opinions, (c) religious beliefs or other beliefs of a similar nature, (d) membership of a trade union (within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992), (e) physical or mental health or condition, (f) sexual life, (g) genetics, (h) biometric data (as used for ID purposes),	☐	☒
	If YES, provide a description of the special category data and explain why this data needs to be collected:		
4	<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		

	Will data from the research activity (collected data, drafts of the thesis, or materials for publication) be stored in any of the following ways?	YES	NO
5	Manual files (i.e. in paper form)?	☐	☐
6	University computers?	☐	☐
7	Private company computers?	☐	☐
8	Home or other personal computers?	☐	☐
9	Laptop computers/ CDs/ Portable disk-drives/ memory sticks?	☒	☐
10	"Cloud" storage or websites?	☐	☐
11	Other – specify:	☐	☐

12	For all stored data, explain the measures in place to ensure the security of the data collected, data confidentiality, including details of backup procedures, password protection, encryption, anonymisation and pseudonymisation:
	In order to ensure the security of the data, the laptop used by the researchers is password protected, and the relevant saved files will also be protected with a password. The personal data of participants will be pseudonymized and blurred after collection, and a separate file will be formed. The raw file will be treated confidentially. For secure data transfer and storage, we will utilize encrypted cloud storage services (such as university-approved OneDrive or Google Drive with institutional accounts) with password protection. When transferring data, only the processed pseudonymized files will be moved, while the original personal data will remain securely stored on the password-protected laptop. This approach maintains strong data security and confidentiality throughout the research process. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>

Data Protection			
	Will the research activity involve any of the following activities:	YES	NO
13	Electronic transfer of data in any form?	☒	☐
14	Sharing of data with others at the University outside of the immediate research team?	☐	☒
15	Sharing of data with other organisations?	☐	☒
16	Export of data outside the UK or importing of data from outside the UK?	☒	☐
17	Use of personal addresses, postcodes, faxes, emails or telephone numbers?	☐	☒
18	Publication of data that might allow identification of individuals?	☐	☒
19	Use of data management system?	☐	☒
20	Data archiving?	☐	☒
21	If YES to any question, please provide full details, explaining how this will be conducted in accordance with the GDPR and Data Protection Act (2018) (and any international equivalents, where appropriate): In the process of audio and photo recording, other electronic devices may be used, such as mobile phones, cameras, etc. These data will be transmitted through secure encrypted cloud storage services (such as university-approved OneDrive or Google Drive with institutional accounts). This transfer method ensures data security while preventing loss of physical storage devices. This research will explore the basic situation and teaching practices in nurseries based on the Wales Foundation Phase Framework from the perspective of a Chinese preschool education researcher. During the research process, I will reference relevant public academic materials from China to ensure research viewpoints are supported by reliable academic sources. Research data will be transferred from China to the UK for analysis, but all data will be anonymised before transmission to protect the privacy and rights of participants. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
22	List all who will have access to the data generated by the research activity:		
	Only the researcher <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
23	List who will have control of, and act as custodian(s) for, data generated by the research activity:		
	Only the researcher		

	<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
24	Give details of data storage arrangements, including security measures in place to protect the data, where data will be stored, how long for, and in what form. Will data be archived – if so how and if not why not.		
	The data will be stored in the researcher's password-protected laptop. The data will be divided into original data and processed data. The original data will be deleted after processing to protect participant privacy. The processed data (which has been pseudonymized) will be stored for one year due to potential academic publication possibilities. After one year, all processed data will also be permanently deleted.		
	<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
25	Please indicate if your data will be stored in the UWTSD Research Data Repository (see https://researchdata.uwtsd.ac.uk/). If so please explain. <i>(Most relevant to academic staff)</i>		
	No		
	<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
26	Confirm that you have read the UWTSD guidance on data management (see https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/library/research-data-management/)	YES	☒
27	Confirm that you are aware that you need to keep all data until after your research has completed or the end of your funding	YES	☒

SECTION K: Declaration

	The information which I have provided is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have attempted to identify any risks and issues related to the research activity and acknowledge my obligations and the rights of the participants. In submitting this application I hereby confirm that I undertake to ensure that the above named research activity will meet the University's Research Ethics and Integrity Code of Practice which is published on the website: https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/research/research-ethics/		
1	Signature of applicant:	Linghua Zeng	Date: 3/4/2025

For STUDENT Submissions:

2	Director of Studies/Supervisor:		Date:
3	Signature:		

For STAFF Submissions:

4	Academic Director/ Assistant Dean:		Date:
5	Signature:		

Checklist: Please complete the checklist below to ensure that you have completed the form according to the guidelines and attached any required documentation:

☒	I have read the guidance notes supplied before completing the form.
☐	I have completed ALL RELEVANT sections of the form in full.
☐	I confirm that the research activity has received approval in principle
☐	I have attached a copy of final/interim approval from external organisation (where appropriate)
☐	I have attached a full risk assessment (where appropriate) ONLY TICK IF YOU HAVE ATTACHED A FULL RISK ASSESSMENT
☒	I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that the above named research activity will meet the University's Research Ethics and Integrity Code of Practice.
☒	I understand that before commencing data collection all documents aimed at respondents (including information sheets, consent forms, questionnaires, interview schedules etc.) must be confirmed by the DoS/Supervisor, module tutor or Academic Director.

RESEARCH STUDENTS ONLY

Once complete, submit this form via the **MyTSD Doctoral College Portal** at (<https://mytsd.uwtsd.ac.uk>).

RESEARCH STAFF ONLY

All communications relating to this application during its processing must be in writing and emailed to pgresearch@uwtsd.ac.uk, with the title 'Ethical Approval' followed by your name.

STUDENTS ON UNDERGRADUATE OR TAUGHT MASTERS PROGRAMMES should submit this form (and receive the outcome) via systems explained to you by the supervisor/module leader.

AI Acknowledgement

I acknowledge the use of ChatGPT (<https://www.chatgpt.com/>) on 2 April 2025 to check my work using the prompt(s):

1. Please check the following text for readability, grammar and syntax.

I confirm that I have not presented any AI generated text as my own work. I confirm that I have copies of my drafts, notes, and other resources I used before, and after the use of AI tools which I may be asked to provide in evidence.