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| C:\Users\1526026\Desktop\RSU\Logos\RSU Logos\NILS logos\Powerpoint logos\NILS 2.jpg | NILS/NIMS APPLICATION FORM |

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is responsible for the Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS) and the Northern Ireland Mortality Study (NIMS).

Please refer to the NISRA website for the [Research Approvals Group Applications Criteria](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/nils-rag-criteria) which are used to assess a research proposal.

PART A: USER AND STUDY DETAILS

SECTION A1 APPLICATION DETAILS

Study Title

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Proposed Start Date (DD/MM/YY)

Proposed Project Duration (e.g., 5 years)

*Please ensure that you propose a realistic project duration. This can only be amended at a later stage in exceptional circumstances.*

Contact Details of the Chief Researcher

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| Title |  |
| Name |  |
| Position |  |
| Organisation |  |
| Institutional Address |  |
| Telephone |  |
| Email Address |  |
| Researcher Accreditation Number |  |
| Researcher Accreditation Expiry Date |  |
| Valid AccessNI check\* (Yes/No) |  |

Contact Details of Other Researcher(s)

Please provide details of all other researchers on the project team.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Organisation | Email Address | Researcher Accreditation Number | Researcher Accreditation Expiry Date | Valid AccessNI check\* (Yes/No/n/a) |
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\*An AccessNI check is necessary for all researchers who plan on gaining access to the NISRA secure environment to conduct statistical analysis

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| [ ]  I agree to protect the confidentiality of the NILS/NIMS data.[ ]  I will follow all the [‘Dos and Don’ts’](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/access-secure-environment) as published by the NILS team.[ ]  I will read the RSU Policies document and sign the RSU Project Agreement upon approval of this application. Signature: Date:  (electronic signatures accepted here) |

Please ensure that all named researchers provide their signature above.

SECTION A2 BACKGROUND AND AIMS OF THE STUDY

Project Summary/Abstract

This will be published on the NILS-RSU website if the research proposal is approved (circa 250 words). [See current projects](https://nils.ac.uk/research-page/)

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Relevance of Research Proposal to NILS/NIMS

Please provide evidence of the longitudinal aspect to the research and explain how the NILS/NIMS data is uniquely placed to contribute to the study.

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Please provide a brief summary of what is known to date about your chosen topic and how the proposed research would contribute.

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Relevance of Research Proposal to Health & Social Care

Please indicate how the research proposal relates to Health & Social Care research.

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Please indicate how the research may support the development/delivery of public policy, public service delivery or serve the public good. Please reference any local or national policies where possible.

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Planned Publication and Dissemination of Findings

Please provide detail on the relevant stakeholders for the research.

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| [ ]  | Health bodies such as Department of Health (DoH), Public Health Agency, Department of Health (England); please specify:  |
| [ ]  | Other Government Department; please specify:       |
| [ ]  | Research Council, Charitable Foundation; please specify:  |
| [ ]  | NISRA; please specify: |
| [ ]  | Other; please specify:       |

Indicate how you plan to publicise and disseminate the findings of the study.

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| [ ]  | Refereed journals; please specify: |
| [ ]  | Report for Government Department, Research Councils or other sponsors; please specify: |
| [ ]  | Internal NISRA reports; please specify: |
| [ ]  | Presentations (conferences, workshops, seminars); please specify: |
| [ ]  | Other; please specify:       |

*You will be required to periodically provide updates on any policy relevance, impact or dissemination activities. This will be throughout the life of the project and for a period afterwards.*

Research Limitations

Please provide detail on any potential limitations with using the proposed data for this project. Any assumptions or use of proxies/inferences should also be noted.

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Proposed Methodology

Please summarise your design and methodology. It should be clear exactly what will happen to the data. Please put this in language which would be easily understood by a lay person. *(Also include any potential disclosure issues and how these will be addressed).*

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Please indicate the software you plan to use in the NISRA secure environment. [See current software availability.](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/software-secure-environment)

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PART B: SPECIFYING DATA EXTRACT

SECTION B1 STUDY POPULATION

Dataset to be Used (please select). NILS [ ]  NIMS [ ]

Study Population

Please provide a description of the population selected for the study specifying as much detail as possible. Please consider gender, age group, timeframe and the link to Census data.

For example, all male NILS members aged between 15-44 enumerated at the 2011 Census and/or the 2021 Census.

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Estimated Sample Size

Please include details of the size of the sample and any subgroups that may be the focus of any analysis. Alternatively provide power calculations. Where possible, please include references for your estimates and please show the calculations used to generate your final sample size.

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Synthetic Data

Synthetic dataset required for this project (check if required) [ ]

(Synthetic data will be prepared in line with the guidance outlined within [Information on NILS Univariate Synthetic Data](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/univariate-synthetic-data). A Project Modification form requesting synthetic data must be submitted to RSU for approval).

Requested Datasets

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| Census Data  |  |  |  |  |
| 19811991  | [ ] [ ]  |  |  |  |
| 2001  | [ ]  |  |  |  |
| 2011 2021 | [ ] [ ]  |  |  |  |
| Vital Events Data(NILS only) |  | Event Dates | (please specify if require latest available) |
| Deaths of NILS Members  | [ ]  | from       | to       |
| Widowerhoods of NILS MembersBirths of NILS MembersBirths to NILS Mothers | [ ] [ ] [ ]  | from      from      from       | to      to      to       |
| Births to NILS Fathers | [ ]  | from       | to       |
| Marriages of NILS Members | [ ]  | from       | to       |
| Mortality Data (NIMS only)Deaths  |   | [ ]  | from       | to       |
| Migration data (NILS only) |  |  |  |
| Internal Migration | [ ]  | from       | to       |
| Immigration/Re-entrants | [ ]  | from       | to       |
| Emigration | [ ]  | from       | to       |

Variables Required

Please complete this section using the NILS Data Dictionary and, if necessary, in consultation with the NILS-RSU. Please add more rows as necessary.

Please note it is important that all variables required are included in this list. Please refer to the online [Data Dictionary](https://nils.ac.uk/data-documentation/).

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| Table Name | Variable Name | Justification for Inclusion (necessary for all variables) |
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Derived Variables

You may need to have new variables included in your project dataset which can be generated by the NILS-RSU using existing NILS/NIMS data (including confidential or restricted variables). Please list the input variables required for the derivation and, where possible, show how the new variable will be derived.

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Additional Information

Please outline any requirements you may have in relation to attaching external data (other than area-based data at Super Output Area/Super Data Zone level or above) to your project dataset.

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SECTION C1 LINKING INDIVIDUAL LEVEL DATA

A project that involves the linking of individual level data to the NILS is called a Distinct Linkage Project (DLP). DLPs require further steps to be undertaken to comply with legislation and safeguard the confidentiality of the data. Please ensure a letter of support from the external data supplier is submitted to NILS-RSU along with the application form.

Description of Individual Level Data

Data Supplier

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Please describe the individual level data and provide information on the Data Custodian and how the data was collected.

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Individual Level Data Variable List

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| Variable Name | Description | Justification for Inclusion |
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If you have requested an anonymised GP Practice identifier variable please provide justification for your request below.

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If you have requested an anonymised GP Practice identifier variable will it appear on any outputs? If so, please describe below.

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Requirement for Individual Level Data

Please provide evidence of the research need for individual level data to be attached to the NILS and the additional research benefits that could be obtained.

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Feasibility of Linkage

Please describe how you have investigated the feasibility of the linkage (e.g. the coverage of the Health & Care Number), the quality of the data and any experience in using the new data.

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One-Way Encryption Methodology

The method of linking data using one-way encryption. Please confirm that it is appropriate for the data to be linked in this way. If the linkage requires any deviation from this methodology please describe it in detail below.

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Legal Basis

Please provide details of any discussions regarding the legal framework for the data and the support of the Data Custodian.

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| [ ]  I have provided a letter of support from the Data Custodian. [ ]  I understand I will require ethical approval from the Office for Research Ethics Committees Northern Ireland (ORECNI).[ ]  I will adhere to the [DoH Code of Practice on Protecting the Confidentiality of Service User Information](https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/user-info-code2019.pdf). [ ]  I agree to keep NISRA informed of progress and will assist the NILS team in drawing up a Data Transfer Agreement between NISRA and the data  supplier. Signature: Date: (electronic signatures accepted here) |

Please ensure that all named researchers provide their signature above.