Submit Grant Proposal | VR@Illinois

Submitted by:
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1. Name
Tricia Thrasher

2. Email
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3. Your Status
Graduate Student

4. Your Department
French & Italian

5. Provide a brief summary of the VR/AR project that would be funded by this grant proposal
The project that would be funded is examining the use of virtual reality in language teaching. Specifically, it addresses how virtual reality can be used to combat negative affective factors (i.e., foreign language anxiety) that have been shown to be detrimental to the language learning process. Research thus far has shown that learners often feel less anxious in virtual reality settings. However, this research has relied upon subjective self-reported questionnaire data to measure anxiety level although scholars have deemed the inclusion of physiological objective measures to be necessary. Aiming to address this gap in research, this study will examine French language learners' anxiety levels and peer interactions in virtual reality objectively using heart rate monitors.

6. How much funding are you requesting?
$1,100 for 12 heart rate monitors.

7. Provide a brief preliminary budget of how the funds would be used
The budget would be used to purchase the heart rate monitors needed for participants in the experiment. They are $80 each which would equal $960. The additional $140 would be used to cover tax and shipping costs.

8. Describe the anticipated outcomes of your project.
I anticipate that the heart rate monitors would allow me to see the physiological impact of virtual reality on French learners, specifically in terms of anxiety level. However, I also believe that HR monitors could be a practical investment for the virtual reality lab on campus, in that they could prove valuable to other researchers seeking objective measures that examine how virtual reality impacts students.

9. What is the proposed timeline for your VR project?

The first round of data collection for this VR project would be conducted this upcoming Spring of 2020. However, I intend to do additional data collection over the following two years.

10. Additional information

I have been conducting my research thus far in the Virtual Reality Lab in Armory and therefore would propose that the heart rate monitors be stored there for research purposes.