

## Human Research Ethics Protocols for Coursework Masters

Different protocols apply for Coursework Masters students compared to Higher Degree Research (Bachelor Hons, MPhil, MRes or PhD) students. Student projects conducted within a coursework Masters are governed by the Western Sydney University Assessment Policy because students do not seek to disseminate the results of their projects in a public arena, and therefore, their work is not governed by the Ethics approval process.

If you intend to *publish* work from research you devise and complete during this course in a public arena (e.g. an academic or scholarly journal, a paper or presentation at an external research conference) you will need to go through an Ethics approval process. If you would like to co-author or co-present at a research conference with a university academic, you will need ethics approval.

If your work involves another institution (e.g. school, hospital) they may require you to meet their human ethics requirements. You will need to ascertain if this is the case as soon as possible as ethics approval takes time to obtain.

However, apart from the contexts described above, there are teaching and learning contexts where you will not need formal human ethics approvals. These contexts include:

- practitioner research on an intervention or other aspect of teaching and learning that would be normal practice in your school or other educational or professional context (if you do not intend to publish).
- reflexive qualitative research where your primary data source is yourself rather than other people e.g. journal entries, auto ethnographies or self-study, some narrative research, some other arts-based research such as poetry, collage, drama.
- primary data that is already in the public domain e.g. literature-based research, research into popular culture, policy and other government documents.

Whether or not you need to go through a formal approval process, the human ethics values of merit and integrity, justice, beneficence and respect should be considered in the design of all research projects. For example, all participants should remain anonymous.

Coursework Masters students should discuss this with their lecturer or unit coordinator to determine if their activity requires ethics approval.

## Human Research Ethics Guidance Documents available from Research Services

- Guidance for Researchers New to Human Ethics Review
- Guidance Human Research Ethics Protocols for Coursework Masters
- Guidance on Choosing the most appropriate PIS and Consent
- Guidance on Completing the Project Description
- Guidance on Creating Research Project Flyers
- Guidance on Data Storage and Retention Questions
- Guidance on Ethics Review Exemption
- Guidance on Issues with Informed Consent in Research
- Guidance on Levels of Risk and the Ethical Review Process
- Guidance on Making an Amendment to an Approved Project
- Guidance on Organisations in Research
- Guidance on Questions Related to Cultural Sensitivities
- Guidance on Questions Related to Restrictions on Publication of Results
- Guidance on Receiving and Responding to Ethics Committee Assessor Comments
- Guidance on Research Projects Seeking to use Western Sydney Staff as Participants
- Guidance on Reimbursements
- Guidance on The use of 'Opt Out' or Passive Consent in Human Research
- Guidance on Writing Participant Information Sheets and Consent Forms
- Guidance on Research Involving Young People
- Guidance on Research Projects and DFAT Advice
- Guidance on Using Focus Groups in Research

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