# **GUIDANCE FOR RESEARCH ETHICS REVIEWERS (Taught UG and PG Projects)**

## **Description of the Study**

1. Is there a clear rationale for what is being studied? Worthwhile outcomes that justify the time, effort and resources?
2. Do the potential benefits outweigh any potential risk to the participants?
3. Are the aims of the research clearly outlined?

## **Protecting the Participants**

1. Is it clear how access to participants will be obtained? Any gatekeepers identified and if required is there evidence of permission to access the sample?
2. If there are inclusion/exclusion criteria, are they clear and appropriate?
3. Is the information about the study clear?
4. Is there enough information about the study given to participants to make an informed decision about participation?
5. Is consent being obtained appropriately? Is this free from any coercion?
6. If any participants are vulnerable or potentially vulnerable, has this been addressed satisfactorily?
7. Is the participant's identity and the confidentiality of the material he/she presents to the researcher adequately safeguarded?
8. Are participants able to / been explicitly told that they can withdraw from the research study? How will it be done and has a suitable deadline been specified for withdrawal of data after the event? (1-2 weeks normal). [Exception is anonymised data where withdrawal is not possible.]
9. Has the possibility of any physical or psychological harm occurring to participants as a result of the research been acknowledged? Is there an indication of how the researcher will deal with this?

## **Conflicts of Interest**

Are there any conflicts of interest in the researcher undertaking this study and/or with these participants? Has it been acknowledged? Is it being addressed properly?

## **Study Methodology**

1. Can the methods address the research questions being proposed?
2. If there is some deception in the study, has its use been justified and is there an appropriate debriefing in place?
3. Is the contribution being asked of participants reasonable in terms of time, emotional burden, and the importance of the research question as explained by the researcher?
4. If taking any dietary supplements, are the doses clearly specified and justified?
5. If participating in a diet and/or physical activity are appropriate safeguards in place to prevent harm to participants?
6. If human tissue is being collected, is it compliant with the Human Tissue Act?

## **Data Storage and Management**

1. How will data be stored to ensure compliance with the general data protection legislation (GDPR)?
2. How and when will confidential data be disposed of?
3. Where will data be stored?

## **Supporting Documents** (e.g. adverts, information sheets, consent forms, questionnaires, interview/ focus group questions outlines, debriefing sheet, etc.)

1. Has a participant information sheet been completed?
2. Is the language in any advertisements, information sheets or consent forms suitable, not too technical or complex for the research participants being targeted?
3. Are details of measures to be used included (i.e. questionnaires, interview schedule, data collection sheets)?
4. Has the health and safety risk assessment form been completed correctly?
5. Should a participant become distressed as a result of participating in the study is it clear how they can contact the researchers to get further information or help? Is there an email address and telephone number of the PI?
6. Can participants find out about the results of the study?
7. If a Risk Assessment for the procedures is required has this been uploaded and correctly completed?
8. If a DBS is required has evidence of this been included?

## **Protecting the Researcher**

1. Has the student outlined how they will ensure their own safety whilst recruiting participants and collecting data?

## **Summary**

Students should consider the core principles above and address any that apply to their research as part of their application. Failure to address the aspects above should be referred back to the student and the supervisor to address.

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