

Research Ethics Approval procedure for Research Conducted outside the UK

Introduction

In accordance with the University's Research Ethics Policy, any research being conducted outside the UK, including EU and EEA countries, should where possible first secure research ethics approval from a local in-country research ethics committee before applying for Wrexham University Research Ethics approval under the 'Recognition of Approval' application route.

Scope

The University Policy and this procedure apply with equal force to projects undertaken by staff or students of the University in any location, including joint work with third-party organisations.

Procedure

All applications for research ethics approval must be submitted through the Wrexham Research Ethics System.

Securing local approval

The view of what are ethically acceptable research methodologies depends on the cultural, political, and regulatory environment of the location in which the research is conducted. Ethical considerations of research, how we conceptualise the notions of individual rights in research, and the political and cultural sensitivities within research vary across the world. Within the University's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of ethics, rigour, and integrity in all its research, the University determines that research conducted outside the UK should explore the possibility of securing local in-country research ethics approval.

Researchers should investigate the possibility of in-country approval by liaising with local Higher Education Institutes, referring to the [World Health Organisation National Ethics Committee](#) register, and connecting with any local non-governmental organisations. Where local research ethics approval has been secured, the University will request to review the documentation in place to ensure it conforms to the University's principles and policies.

No local approval

In cases in which there has been no local ethical review, then a full application to the University's Research Ethics Committee must be made showing the steps taken by the researcher to ensure that the research meets local ethical norms. The application must demonstrate a full understanding of the specific cultural, legal, and social considerations in the host country. Regulatory procedures of the host country must be complied with, including any requirements for specific research access or research visas. [The Office for Human Research Protections](#) collates a list annually, with the listing of over 1,000 laws, regulations, and guidelines on human subject protections in over 100 countries. Researchers should be familiar with these legal and data protection regulations before applying for University research ethics approval.

Principles

The following principles will be applied to research undertaken by staff or students outside the UK.

- The University aims to ensure that the methodology used for research projects conducted outside the UK meets both the ethical standards applied to UK-based research and the ethical norms of the location in which it is undertaken.
- In a case where the local cultural norms may make it impractical for the research methodology to conform fully to UK practice, for example, the process of eliciting written

informed consent, the research would be conducted to different ethical standards that are considered to be locally appropriate. Such deviations from the standards applied to UK-based research must be detailed within an application for University research ethics approval.

- All research projects conducted by staff and students outside the UK must receive ethical approval from the University. Where possible, local research ethics approval must be obtained first, however in some cases the local committee may request approval from the university research ethics committee first.
- Researchers and members of the research ethics committee reviewing international applications will consider the potential ethical issues relating to the power differentials which may arise in research conducted in low-economic countries or countries experiencing conflict or political instability.
- Researchers conducting research in international settings will be encouraged to form relationships with local organisations or those who may act as gatekeepers in accessing the researched population.
- Researchers will provide the relevant risk assessment for international travel and have a communication plan in place with the University whilst conducting the research.

Materials in another language

Where applicants have applied to a Research Ethics Committee outside the UK in a language which is not English, they should provide a translated copy to the Wrexham University Research Ethics committee before the review can take place. Applicants should include any materials that will be used for the proposed research in the language in which it is to be distributed as well as an English translation.

Contacts

All queries relating to this procedure should be directed to the Research Office - rescadmin@glyndwr.ac.uk