



CODE OF RESEARCH ETHICS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA

1. All research conducted by staff and students of the university involving human participants and the use of vertebrate animal subjects must be referred to the appropriate ethics committee.
2. These include all research, qualitative or quantitative, regardless of whether the research is funded by internal/external grants or even unfunded.
3. All research conducted by staff and students must follow codes of ethical guidelines for research involving human participants which include :
 - a) Sources of Data – The participant is subject to ethical clearance, meaning the researcher must define whether the data involves new data collection or existing data and how the data will be collected.
 - b) Risk Assessment – The researcher is required to undertake “Risk Assessment” to ensure that participants’ interests and rights are protected.
 - c) Informed Consent – The participant is given the opportunity to choose what shall or shall not happen to them, meaning the researcher should provide the participants with sufficient information using words that are easy to understand and the language/s that the participants speak.
 - d) Recorded consent other than written consent - online/email recorded response can also serve as a means of obtaining informed consent as long as it is in response to a proper information sheet.
 - e) Waiver of the Requirement of Recorded Informed Consent - participants must normally give recorded informed consent to any use of their personal data unless existing personal data is being used for the purposes for which they were collected or a directly related purpose.
 - f) Pilot Studies – It is a must to seek consent before obtaining data in pilot studies.
 - g) Parental consent - For research involving children under 18 years old , researchers should seek written consent from parents by providing a full justification for the data collection and an information sheet.

h) Privacy and confidentiality of data - researchers must maintain the confidentiality of data related to individual research participants. Except by public observation, researchers should clearly indicate the purpose of the collection of data and the method to ensure the confidentiality of collected data. Researchers must also avoid the use of any personal identifiers such as individuals' names and addresses in their research reports which could lead to the human participants being identified.

i) Security - Information collected will not be publicly disclosed for security reason. As for private sensitive data, researchers are advised to use indirect identifiers and to keep the direct identifiers separate from the data.

j) Benefits - All reimbursement of expenses, such as traveling expenses, should be commensurate with standard practice and be reasonable.

k) Sensitive issues – The researcher should be aware of sensitive issues that are highlighted by EPU. (Please refer to *appendix i*).

EXPLANATORY NOTES ON SENSITIVE ISSUES

1. In the context of national security, sensitive issues mean any issue that can cause prejudice, hatred, enmity or contempt between or towards any ethnic or religious group and can affect public safety, national security and/or the integrity of the Government and is generally connected with the following acts or behaviour:

a) Questioning the implementation of certain government policies pertaining to economic development, education and social matters.

b) Questioning the implementation of particular provisions in the Federal and State Constitutions pertaining to Federal Laws, the freedom of religion, the special position of the indigenous community (Bumiputera), citizenship and rights of the other communities.

c) Regarding a racial or religious group as neglected or given preference in the implementation of a particular policy without providing the background or reasons that necessitate it.

d) Promoting the success of one racial or religious group on the basis of the preference and facilities provided by the government to individuals or the ethnic group concerned.

e) Questioning the authority, wisdom and abilities of a group in a particular area on an ethnic basis.

f) Associating and blaming a racial or religious group as the cause of an incident.

g) Publicising the name or the ethnic group involved.

h) Publicising the details of an incident or violent happening that can arouse anger amongst those who read and/or hear about it.

i) Publicising and displaying of photograph or sketch that shows the racial origin or religion of the parties involved in causing the incident.

j) Conveying the impression that the authorities have failed or are unable to control the situation and are rude and unjust in the discharge of their duties.

k) Exaggerating an incident or using rumours or information as the basis for reports that can cause panic or apprehension amongst the people.

l) Exaggerating the weakness of the government to particular groups overseas with the intention of demeaning the integrity or eroding the confidence of the international community in the authority of the government.

<http://www.epu.gov.my/undertaking>