

Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology

Terms of Reference for Research and Ethics Committee (REC)

Guiding Philosophy

Research ethics is built upon the guiding core ethical principles of respect for persons and animals, concern for welfare, and justice.

The application of these core principles is intended to achieve balance between the necessity to protect students and staff of educational and training institutions participating in research projects and the legitimate requirements of research and academic freedom through a transparent, accountable, and fair process for review and monitoring of the ethical acceptability, conduct of research and data collection.

The goal of the Research and Ethics Committee is consequently to assess research proposals dealing with any matters concerning the subject of education in the Republic of Mauritius. Upon satisfactory assessment of application received, REC will issue a “no objection” letter, which will give appropriate access to the researchers.

Terms of reference

1. To set standards and propose/review policies, procedures, and practices on ethical conduct of research on the subject of education;
2. To provide guidelines and disseminate information on the proper ethical conduct of research on the subject of education and encourage the spread of good ethical practice;
3. To undertake regular review of ongoing research for any unethical practices;
4. To consider applications to do research on any matters concerning the subject of education in the Republic of Mauritius;
5. To consider the objectives, methodology and ethical implications of these research;
6. The research ethics committee may clear (approve), reject, or require revisions to a proposed research project, or suspend or withdraw its previous clearance of a project;
7. To issue “No objection” letter for research proposals found suitable; and
8. To periodically monitor the progress of fieldwork related to ongoing research projects.

For the purpose of the Research and Ethics Committee, “matter concerning the subject of education in the Republic of Mauritius” shall include research proposed to be carried out:

- i. On educational policies, protocols and procedures;
- ii. On educational institutions, at any level;
- iii. On students registered in an educational institution, and of whatever age; and

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iv. On educational professionals (teaching, administration or general staff), operating at any level

Composition

- Director (Tertiary Education and Scientific Research) - Chairperson
- A representative from the Higher Education Commission
- A representative from the Quality Assurance Authority
- A representative from the Tertiary Education Directorate
- A representative from the Secondary Directorate
- A representative of the Primary Education Directorate
- A representative of the Health and Wellness Directorate
- A representative of the Quality Assurance Directorate
- Up to two co-opted members, with expertise in the field/s that will be discussed.

Operational Details

- Quorum for research ethics applications – 4 members.
- Frequency of meetings - as and when required
- Decisions on applications can be taken by correspondence, virtual meetings and/or email provided at least 5 members of the total actual membership respond to the matter.
- The Research and Ethics Committee shall keep and maintain minutes of all duly convened meetings.

Review

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed as and when required to ensure they are relevant, effective and the REC can diligently discharge its duties.