



# ICHAS

## Section 8 - Student Supports

<b>Subject:</b>	Policy on the Conduct of Ethical Research within the College		
Applicable QQI Core Standard	Support for Learners Teaching and Learning		
Date Approved by Board of Directors:			<b>July 2019</b>
Policy Version	1/2019	Date due for Revision	February 2024

### CONTEXT

Research is an integral and vital component of any form of education but in particular Higher Education. In the fields of Humanities and Applied Science in particular, Research is important in understanding the application of scientific research in applied settings and its utility. As a matter of principle, there is general consensus that any research involving human participants should be reviewed and considered by an appropriately constituted research ethics committee, which has the necessary competence to advise upon and make recommendations in relation to research involving humans. Such consideration should be undertaken in advance of the commencement of any research of this nature. Consideration may be by full review or in some instances may be expedited and undertaken by way of Chair's action or the action of a dedicated sub-committee. The Irish National Council on Bioethics (2004: 8-9) sets out the type of research activities that normally require review by a HREC.

### POLICY STATEMENT

The Human Research Ethics Committee oversees the approval and monitoring of any Human Research undertaken in the College. It has to ensure that a participant's inclusion in a research study complies with principles set out by the Irish National Council on Bioethics (2004). Broadly speaking the HREC pays particular attention to and as far as practicable to ensure that research proposals/protocols presented to it for review will demonstrate evidence of how the research will adhere to the principles of/ and ensure:

1. Justice
2. beneficence
3. respect
4. risk and benefit analysis
5. participant's informed consent.

## SCOPE

Applies To	Staff	Students	Both	
			✓	
Responsible for Implementation	Vice President Academic Affairs			
Responsible for Monitoring & Review	Vice President (Corporate Affairs)	Vice President (Academic Affairs)	Registrar	Quality Assurance & Enhancement Officer
			✓	

## DEFINITIONS

HIQA (2012<sup>1</sup>) defines a research ethics committee as a committee convened to provide the independent advice to participants, researchers, funders, sponsors, employers, care organisations and professionals on the extent to which proposals for research studies comply with recognised ethical standards.

## RELEVANT GUIDELINES/ POLICIES INFORMING THIS POLICY

- Irish Clinical Trials Directive (Clinical Trials on Medicinal Products for Human Use 2004, S.I No 190)
- World Medical Association (2008): Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects
- CIOMS Guidelines (2002): International Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research Involving Human Subjects
- Belmont Report: Ethical Principles and Guidelines for the Protection of Human Subjects of Research (US) (1979)
- Nuremberg Code (1949)
- Guidance on Consent: HSE NCAG Consent Policy (2012)
- HRB Discussion Document on Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003: Some implications for public health and medical research: The Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003
- NDA Ethical Guidelines for Disability Research
- NDA Guidelines for Including People with Disabilities in Research
- Guidance on Human Tissue Research: Irish Council for Bioethics: Human Biological Material: Recommendations for Collection, Use and Storage in Research 2005
- Guidance on Clinical Trials Directive - Irish Medicines Board: Clinical Trials Directive (Clinical Trials on Medicinal Products for Human Use 2004, S.I No190) FAQs
- Guidance on research in nursing: Guidance to Nurses and Midwives Regarding Ethical Conduct of Nursing and Midwifery Research (2007)

<sup>1</sup> HIQA(2012) available at <https://www.hiqa.ie/system/files/Intl-Review-Research-Ethics-Structures.pdf>. Accessed 7th June, 2019

- Guidance on research with children: Guidance for developing ethical research projects involving children (2012)
- Guidance on child protection: “Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children” (2011)

**Linked Policies and Procedures**

<b>Linked Policies</b>	
<b>Linked Procedures</b>	Procedures associated with the conduct of Ethical Research within the College