Research Integrity Guidance Note

Research involving Human Subjects and the need for IRB Approval

All research which in any way involves human subjects is of considerable sensitivity and requires IRB approval.

As stated in the IRB web site, the NTU IRB is established to meet the international standards and expectation in order to protect human subjects involved in research projects as well as to support the researchers and protect the standing of the institution. NTU-IRB will conduct ethical review on all research proposals involving human research participants or human biological materials. The setting up of NTU-IRB is not to hinder research but to promote ethical research. Usually funding agencies will only release funds to PIs for research when the research proposal is given the clearance on ethics issues, by IRB. Also many scientific journals will only publish research manuscripts if the research proposal has been reviewed and approved by IRB.

For further information about the IRB, please go to:

[http://research.ntu.edu.sg/rieo/IRB/Documents/Guide%20for%20staff%20applying%20for%20ethics%20review%20v2.docx](http://pluto:7085/rieo/IRB/Documents/Guide%20for%20staff%20applying%20for%20ethics%20review%20v2.docx)

IRB approval is needed whenever a researcher from NTU is involved in research involving human subjects.

This applies whether the research is being conducted by NTU researchers alone or in collaborative projects. IRB approval and advice should be sought whether the research is being conducted in Singapore or overseas and whether or not the collaborative body has sought and received its own internal IRB approval. IRB approval by the collaborating institution still requires the researchers involved from NTU to seek guidance and approval from the NTU IRB.

Legislation in Singapore needs to be followed including the privacy of personal information.

It is also important to recognise that there is additional sensitivity when working with disadvantaged groups or in other countries, in other languages and in other cultures.

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