

Special Guidelines for Ethical Approval Applications in Educational Sciences

1. One of the most important issues in educational research is the relationship between the researcher(s) and the potential participants. Often researchers, who may also be lecturers at a specific higher education institution, may want to carry out research with their own students or with students who are studying in other departments within the same institution. In such cases, these relationships may cause potential conflicts of interest. **It is of utmost importance that the researcher(s) relationship to the potential participants are clearly stated in the application form.** In addition, in cases where conflicts of interest may be anticipated, ways in which such conflicts will be dealt with/overcome need to be clearly outlined in the appropriate sections of application form.
2. **In cases where lecturers are intending to involve their students in research as participants, they should take necessary measures to prevent students from feeling pressurised towards participation.** In other words, participation should be completely voluntary on the part of the students. Details of how this will be achieved should be given in the application form.
3. In cases where the aims, scope and the methods of a specific study require the researcher to include his/her students in his/her research as participants, students should be briefed about the aims of the study at the beginning of the study and they should be informed that their participation in research will not have any impact on their performance/evaluation in a given course. **Data cannot be collected from students who decline to participate in any given study.**
4. Lecturers who collect data from students whom they are teaching in a given semester are required to **submit their final grades** for that particular course to the ethical committee to be checked for any bias in grades.
5. In cases where students' work will need to be collected and used as data in a given study, the researcher can only use the data gathered from students who agree to participate in the proposed study by signing the informed consent form. In these studies, best practice is to obtain the **consent of the students at the end of the course.** Work produced by students who do not sign an informed consent form or who express their unwillingness to participate in the study cannot be used as data in any academic research.
6. As mentioned in the general guidelines of Near East University's Ethical Review Board, in cases where data need to be collected from schools/organisations, **formal permissions should be sought and obtained from relevant official bodies.** Information regarding where and how these permissions will be obtained need to be provided in the application form.
7. In all cases, proof of informed consent by the participants (especially in cases where minors and vulnerable groups are involved) should be **kept by the researchers for future reference.**
8. In classroom-based experimental studies, where different groups will be exposed to different kinds of treatment(s), details of how these groups will be **prevented from being disadvantaged in terms of their learning experiences** need to be detailed in the appropriate sections of the application form.