

CHANAKYA UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH SUPPORT GUIDELINES

Office of Academic Affairs

October 2023

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and approved by the Board of Management vide resolution No. 8 (b) on 27.11.2023**

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SECTION I: RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS

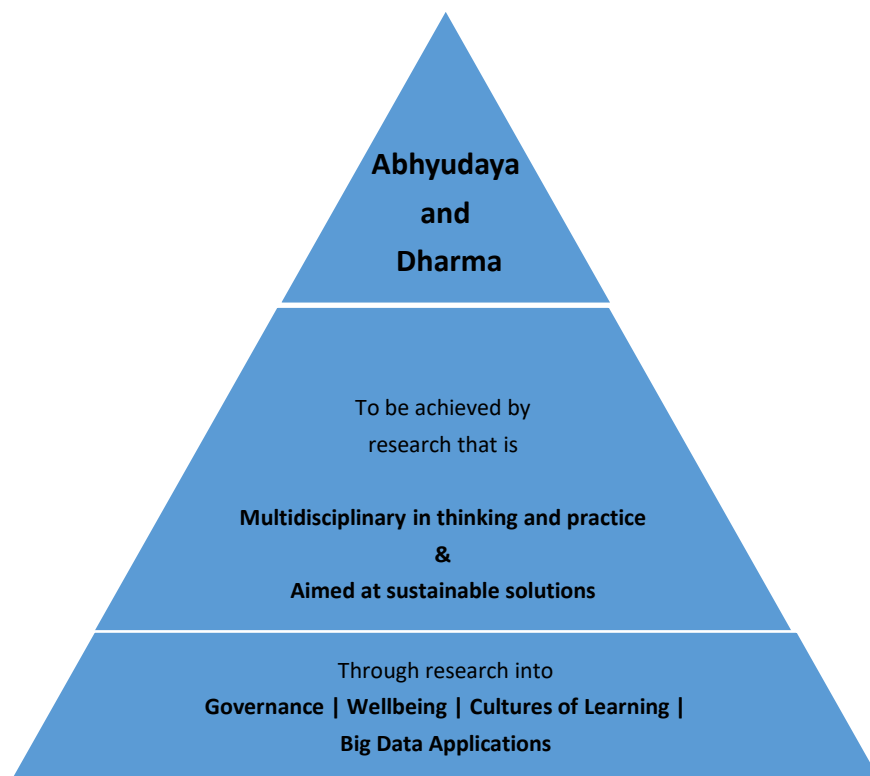
The first Section of this document details out the research thrust of Chanakya University and the Research Focus Areas that the University would encourage its Faculty and Students to engage in to fulfil its vision and values.

1. Research Thrust of Chanakya University

The overall research thrust of Chanakya University is inspired by the purpose of the University – ‘creating knowledge and transformative leaders for holistic development’¹. The Liberal Education Framework adopted by Chanakya University finds its roots in the National Education Policy 2020, that purports building character, ethical values, intellectual curiosity, and spirit of service as the pathway to a learned nation. This requires the institution to gain knowledge from Indian Knowledge Systems, adapt and contextualize them to the current and future concerns of India through the systematic and rigorous pursuit of Research.

Thus, the overall research thrust of at Chanakya University is to find pathways towards holistic development through sustainable solutions that are backed by sound evidence and interventional impact carried out by Chanakya University’s faculty and students in collaboration with other peer institutions having the same spirit of inquiry and application. India’s aim to honour its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals will also be considered while planning and finalizing the domains.

The following Figure presents an overarching Research thrust framework.



¹ <https://chanakyauniversity.edu.in/academics/> . last accessed on 28th September 2023

2. Overall Strategy

The Office of Academic Affairs supports the implementation of projects on themes that are relevant across Schools and Centres and at the same time comply with the values of the University – Integrity, Humanism, Creativity, Academic Freedom, and Team spirit.

The following points were considered while developing a Strategy for Research at Chanakya University–

- Identify broad domains under which Chanakya University will support faculty research in the next 3-to-5-year period.
- This may not require an exhaustive research involvement of all faculty in the University but on a prioritisation basis for a more focused impact by addressing specific aspects of the project as and when required.
- Each of the research domains is designed to address significant societal problems complemented by historical, theoretical, conceptual explorations and ‘Indian Alternatives’ into the domains.

The operationalisation of this strategy included a two-pronged approach –

- a. Finalising of domains after consultations within Chanakya University
 - Final domains announced with Request for Proposals encouraging.
 - A multi-disciplinary / multi-School / multi-Faculty approach
 - Large scale (in terms of number of years, depth/spread of the study, and institutional collaborations)
 - Measurement of societal impact (action research) and intellectual significance (original / unique contribution)
 - The Purpose and Values of the University
 - Chanakya University to provide dedicated resources to approved proposals that will follow the above and fall within the purview of the Research Domains.
- b. Faculty members to have space to carry out suo moto work on other inter-disciplinary aspects as well.

3. Proposed Research Domains

Research Domain 1

- **Theme** – Wellbeing
- **Logic** -
 - Post the COVID pandemic that led to forced isolation, decreased physical social interaction, and increased workload among individuals, there are major concerns regarding the increasing numbers of people suffering from mental health issues, many of them having experienced and witnessed deaths and disruptions among their immediate families and communities
 - Simultaneously, while RCH and communicable diseases have occupied health departments, non-communicable diseases in India account for 53% of all deaths and 44% of disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) lost
 - India has the highest number of people with Diabetes in the world with around 77 million living with diabetes and a projection of 134 million by 2045
 - Reflects the need for an ‘interdisciplinary approach in order to develop early screening tools, identify predictive biomarkers, develop risk stratification models and to accelerate the development of diagnostic and therapeutic tools, products and processes for medical applications’²
- **Topics of Current Research conducted by top Universities** (Times Higher Education University / Impact Rankings 2023: good health and wellbeing) -
 - Positive psychology, promoting health among local communities, mitigating Household Air Pollution through the Smokeless Village Project, development of new vaccines for poor resource settings, impact of diseases on DALYs – RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences³
 - SCIBAR-Support for Creative Integrated Basic and Applied Research involving non-traditional partnership between faculty members, developing standards and promoting best practices in community-engaged research – Bloomsburg School of Public Health, John Hopkins University⁴
- **Suggestions for Research:**
 - Meta-analysis of Clinical/Medical and Non-medical trials of treatments in alternative health systems → assess the extent of successful completions → identify the gaps to be addressed → plan/implement next steps thereof in partnership with associated institutions
 - Systematic incorporation of indigenous/‘Indic’ systems of medicine in current health systems
 - Nutritional status of children at Anganwadi Centres (AWC) and Schools
 - Health management (development and application of models)
 - Data science application for modelling to improve efficiency.
- **Involvement of Schools-**
 - All four Schools
 - Faculty members with research experience in Research methods; legal and policy analysis; application of mathematical/data tools; identification and application of socio-cultural, economic and political factors influencing health seeking behaviour and health care provision

² <https://dbtindia.gov.in/scientific-decision-units/chronic-diseases-nutrition/chroniclifestyle-disease>, last accessed on 18th September 2023.

³ <https://www.rcsi.com/dublin/research-and-innovation> , last accessed on 3rd October 2023.

⁴ <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/researchbsph> , last accessed on 3rd October 2023.

Research Domain 2

- **Theme** – Discovering Cultures of Learning
- **Logic:**
 - Learnings from each of these cultural characteristics can shape the future if studied, documented and process of applicability explored systematically
 - Both historical and contemporary cultures practiced should be studied to find solutions to any issues identified
- **Topics of current research conducted by universities -**
 - Financial insecurity and precarious work promoting support of radical politics, study of marginalized voices of young people, bringing together mathematics and STEM to solve problems, archiving cultural materials, cultural dimensions of migration, language and social identity – Societies and Cultures Institute, University of Exeter⁵
 - Putting knowledge at the centre of educational practice through the Legitimation Code Theory, workplace equality, asset ownership – University of Sydney⁶
- **Suggestions for Research –**
 - Configure the past to capture ‘learnables’ and make them applicable to the current and the future,
 - Study of new/missed out human values and reviving them, relevance of ancient texts in current times
 - Study unifying factors underneath India’s heterogeneity (social, cultural, linguistic) to work towards ‘justice’ for all or ‘leaving no one behind’
- **Involvement of Schools-**
 - Mainly those related to Humanities and Public Policy
 - Faculty members with research experience in IKS, Study of Cultures, Research in relevant policies, worked on collaborations and partnerships across different cultures.

⁵ <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/institutes/sci/research/> , last accessed on 3rd October 2023.

⁶ <https://www.sydney.edu.au/research/research-impact.html> , last accessed on 3rd October 2023.

Research Domain 3

- **Theme** – Improving Governance
- **Logic** –
 - India has 2,69,471 Gram Panchayats and 4852 Urban Local Bodies
 - Needs deeper analysis to identify actionable recommendations to ensure efficient, effective, and equitable service provision that can be scaled/replicated by Government/s.
 - Governance has emerged as an important issue for institution building, community cooperation, common pool resources, and service delivery.
- **Topics of Current Research conducted by top Universities** (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023) -
 - Influence of social movements on policy making, strengthening democracies and civic engagement, monitoring intersections of business and government – Harvard Kennedy School⁷
 - ‘Disruptive’ approaches to better service delivery, better public accountability, climate cooperation, technological change for inclusive development – University of Oxford (Blavatnik School of Government)⁸
- **Suggestions for Research-**
 - Community participation and ownership of last mile institutions (inclusive development)
 - Gram Panchayat as the locus of control for governance
 - ‘Remodelling / revising’ normative structures of governments for greater sensitivity towards local social and cultural stratifications
 - Climate cooperation, food security, meeting local employment opportunities to reduce unemployment / underemployment, improve Female Labour Force Participation Rate
- **Involvement of Schools-**
 - All four Schools
 - Faculty members with research experience in Research methods, legal and policy analysis, application of mathematical/data tools, socio-cultural and political factors influencing governance

⁷ <https://www.hks.harvard.edu/faculty-research/policy-topics> , last accessed on 3rd October 2023.

⁸ https://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/research?f%5B0%5D=content_type%3Apublication , last accessed on 3rd October 2023.

Research Domain 4

- **Theme** – Big Data Applications
- **Logic** –
 - Increasing use of data and data modelling for analysis of social phenomena
 - In an era of resource crunch among governments, there is a need for predictive models to ensure better resource optimisation – infrastructural, human and financial
 - Use of tools to efficiently collect and collate data to analyse temporal, spatial and social variations for real-time based recommendations
- **Topics of Current Research conducted by universities-**
 - Application of Artificial Intelligence to reduce emissions, field trips to primary and secondary schools to cultivate curiosity in science and engineering, advancing access and equity in STEM – [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#)⁹
 - Making math crucial to understanding and improving human safety, health and security, applied use of mathematics, modeling, statistics and simulation methodologies (e.g., prevent disease outbreaks, disasters or addictions) – [Arizona State University](#)¹⁰
 - Probability and its Applications- Probability theory and Stochastic Processes, Time Series Analysis, Mathematical Finance – [IIT Kharagpur](#)
- **Suggestions for Research-**
 - Application of data science for complex data analytics (government data, fintech, budgets), and to apply knowledge in real-time situations,
 - Arriving at logical data frameworks to improve usage of data, e.g. human safety, preventive health,
 - Advancing access and equity in STEM
- **Involvement of Schools-**
 - Mainly those related to Maths, Law and Public Policy, Commerce and Management
 - Faculty members with relevant research experience.

⁹ <https://www.mit.edu/research/> , last accessed on 3rd October 2023.

¹⁰ <https://www.asu.edu/research> , last accessed on 3rd October 2023.

SECTION II: RESEARCH SUPPORT GUIDELINES

4. Research and Academic Incentives for Faculty

To encourage active participation among the faculty in research activities and to produce outputs that make a meaningful impact to the world, Chanakya University offers the following incentives to Faculty members.

No.	Type of Incentive	Amount (INR) per Faculty	Terms of Use
01	Professional Development	Up to 100,000/year	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To travel abroad for presentation of research paper in a conference once in two years to cover 50% of the total cost subject to a maximum of INR 1 Lakh – prior approval needed 2. To travel within India for presentation of research paper in a conference/seminar once a year to cover the actual cost subject to a maximum of INR 25,000 – prior approval needed 3. To hire the services of a Research Assistant for a specific research endeavour for a period of not more than 2 months in a year subject to a maximum sum of INR 50,000 – prior approval needed 4. To undertake community engagement activities, with student involvement and participation – INR 25,000/year – acceptance of proposal needed 5. To engage in Pilot studies/Action Research leading to preparation of a major research project or leading to publication of a journal article – INR 25,000 once in two years – acceptance of proposal needed 6. To purchase research materials such as chemicals and consumables (stationery and equipment not allowed) 7. To participate in IKS enrichment/orientation/integration activities – INR 30,000 once in two years 8. Any other academic/research engagement with prior approval
02	Support for filing Patents and Copyright registration	Upto 100,000	The university shall support filing of patents based on research outputs, subject to the acceptance of the terms of patent. Prior approval needed.
03	Minor Research Grants	UP to 200,000	A one-time minor research grant for Assistant/Associate Professor within two years of joining the university- subject to review and acceptance of proposal

No.	Type of Incentive	Amount (INR) per Faculty	Terms of Use
04	Chanakya Research Grant (major project)	Need based	A major grant may be made for research of high quality, specifically in the areas of research focus identified by the university from time to time. Case by case decision based on the review of proposal.
05	Revenue sharing on Consultancy projects	Nominal 15% to be shared with the University	The University shall demand a nominal revenue sharing of 15% for the first 5 years. This policy will be reviewed in 2028-29.
06	Membership fee to join reputed professional bodies	Case by Case basis	While the University will pay the fee, the University Research Board (URB) will decide based on certain quality parameters and upper limits.
07	For development of e-content	Up to Rs. 1,00,000/-	The University shall support for every course developed and approved by an e-content MOOC provider such as EDEX, NPTEL, SWAYAM etc to faculty member or team.
08	Recognition for Exceptional Research contribution	Letter of appreciation / Felicitation / Award	Recognition for exceptional research output/ contribution to field of knowledge
09	Recognition for Exceptional Pedagogy contribution	Felicitation / Award (financial incentive)	Recognition for exceptional pedagogical tools and mediums such as simulations, and other standalone videos and such content, will be mentioned specially in the statement of work and will be considered as outstanding contribution during performance appraisal and increment determination
10	Sabbatical Leave	Up to One Year	Based on a concrete proposal for research/publication/Industry Exposure. Eligibility – minimum of 5 years continuous service. Maximum 1 time during the whole service.
11	Other	Case by Case basis	Faculty are eligible for other incentives/facilities based on acceptance of proposals. This will be on a case-by-case basis subject to approval of competent bodies

General Terms:

1. Submission of requests and proposals are a prerequisite.
2. All incentives are based on review and approval of a designated committee headed by one of the Emeritus Professors or Member of the International Advisory Committee of the University.
3. The incentive schemes are subject to review, reconsideration, revocation and/or modification from time to time.
4. Incentives are on a first-come-first-serve basis (subject to approval of proposal) and limited to the extent of overall annual budget sanctioned.
5. In case of No. 1 and 3 above, typically faculty can avail any one the two.

SECTION III: UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD (URB) WITH ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE (ERC)

To be able to adhere to the highest standards of Research principles and ethics, Chanakya University will establish a University Research Board (URB) that will create/compliance standards on a regular basis, monitor research projects to ensure quality and timeliness of all research outputs, and submit statutory documents.

5. Constitution of the University Research Board (URB)

The Chanakya URB will comprise members with sound experiential background in their chosen subjects of expertise and represent relevant sectors that may be both academic and non-academic.

The Board of Management will constitute the URB with the following members-

1. Chairperson –Vice Chancellor
2. Member - Dean, Academic Affairs
3. Member - Dean, School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
4. Member - Dean, School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences
5. Member - Dean, School of Commerce and Management
6. Member - Dean, School of Law, Governance and Public Policy
7. Vice Chancellor's Nominee
8. External Subject Matter Experts – to be invited as and when required.
9. Ex-officio Member Secretary – Special Officer, Office of Academic Affairs

The constitution of the Ethics Review Committee (ERC) will be project-specific and will include select members from the URB itself, and members from a panel of experts created by the URB.

Tenure- The membership of the URB will be co-terminus with the University Academic position as mentioned in the Constitution above. At the time of induction, the member will be provided information on the scope of work and other rights and duties to be carried out during the tenure. The members of the Ethics Review Committee will be given documents including the latest tool by the WHO¹¹ and documents by institutions of the Government of India to ensure that all standards and protocols are familiar will all the members of the URB and ERC.

Meetings- The URB will meet to review relevant research documents, including proposals, draft MoUs, research project related reports to be submitted as per the terms and conditions of the MoU. A mandatory session in the meetings would be to scrutinize the protocol followed where human and animal subjects are involved. A detailed checklist used by the WHO¹² will be the guiding document to be filed by the Project Lead or Principal Investigator of the project that will be reviewed and cleared by the Ethics Review Committee of the URB.

¹¹ <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/372984/9789240076426-eng.pdf?sequence=1> , released on 25th September 2023, last accessed on 14th October 2023

¹² https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/documents/ethics/guide-for-practical-investigation.pdf?sfvrsn=826ad3be_0 , last accessed on 14th October 2023.

6. Functions of the University Research Board (URB)

The functional organogram of the University Research Board (URB) will include

1. **Ethics and Oversight** – Chanakya University will follow protocols both as per international standards that India is a signatory to, as well as statutory standards set by national institutions of the Government of India, for all types of subjects whether animal or human (Clinical trials, animal testing, human clinical trials, and human non-clinical trials).

Currently the focus of Chanakya University will be on human non-clinical trials where it will adhere to ethical principles that protect the dignity, rights and welfare of research participants. The Chanakya University will follow the research ethics laid down by the World Health Organization (WHO) that in its Manual defines research with human subjects as 'any social science, biomedical, behavioural, or epidemiological activity that entails systematic collection or analysis of data with the intent to generate new knowledge, in which human beings:

- are exposed to manipulation, intervention, observation, or other interaction with investigators either directly or through alteration of their environment; or
- become individually identifiable through investigator's collection, preparation, or use of biological material or medical or other records'¹³.

As mentioned earlier, the ERC will review all proposals, draft MoUs and reports in specially convened sessions in the meetings for the URB. Only upon written clearance and approval from the Chair of the URB and ERC, will the final documents be shared with relevant stakeholders outside the Board and Chanakya University.

Regarding the other three categories involving animal testing and clinical trials, Chanakya University will be prepared to seek partnership with Institutions / Universities that are already registered with the relevant government authority, should the need arise with the establishment of other Schools such as Biological Sciences in the University premises. A preliminary list of approved institutions for these categories is as follows, to be approached at the appropriate opportunity.

Animal Testing¹⁴-

1. Central Animal Facility, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, 560012. Registration number: 48/GO/ReRcBiBt-S/Re-L/99/CPCSEA 18-05-2022.
2. National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (Deemed University), P.B.No.2900 Bangalore-560 029. Registration number: 12/GO/ReBi/S/99/ CPCSEA 13-08-2022.

Human Clinical Trials-

1. Bangalore Baptist Hospital, Research Department, Community Health Block, Bellary Road, Hebbal, Bangalore – 560024. Registration Number: ECR/585/Inst/KA/2014/RR-20 issued under New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019¹⁵.

¹³ <https://www.who.int/teams/health-ethics-governance/governance/research> , last accessed on 14th October 2023.

¹⁴ <https://www.ipgmer.gov.in/pdf/AnimalEthicsCommittee/institutionsregisteredwithCPCSEA.pdf> , last accessed on 14th October 2023.

¹⁵ <https://cdsco.gov.in/opencms/resources/UploadCDSCOWeb/2018/UploadEthicsReRegistration/585-Bangalore-1032-KA-2014-RC-RR-20.pdf> , last accessed on 14th October 2023.

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2. Ethics Committee, MS Ramaiah Medical College and Hospitals MS Ramaiah Nagar MSRT Post, Bengaluru, Bengaluru. Registration Number: ECR/215/Inst/KA/2013/RR-22¹⁶
2. **Secretariat for external projects** – The URB will closely monitor progress of externally funded projects to ensure timeliness and review outputs submitted by the Chanakya University Project team to ensure quality adherence (quality protocols outlined by Funder to be shared with the URB)
3. **Research Support** – Research proposals going from Chanakya University will be forwarded to the URB and submitted through the Office of Academic Affairs. Post approval, project-specific trackers will be created that will ensure quality, timeliness and meeting other requirements of the project. The URB will additionally provide the following support to Research/ Project teams:
- Be a Writing Support Centre
 - Maintain a Bibliometrics Tracker (which takes care of our research data being represented correctly across multiple indices and lists such as Scopus, Google Scholar, Web of Science, IRINS etc.)
 - Organise Research Seminar Series
 - Organise Research Methods Workshops (for instance the Harvard Business Review's Simulations Workshops)
 - Manage Patent and IP applications and training
 - Provide Information and support on Grant opportunities
 - Create spaces for Idea Incubation Activities
4. **Custodians of collaboration-based MoUs** – The URB along with the Registrar's Office will maintain copies of the MoUs on Research Projects signed between Chanakya University and other collaborative institutions successful progress and completion of projects.
5. **Project Monitoring** – Research proposals going from CU to be forwarded to the URB and to be submitted from the Centre of Academic Affairs. Post approval, tracker to be created by that will ensure quality, timeliness and meeting other requirements of the project.

NOTE: Involvement of other offices in Chanakya University and documentation

1. For completed documents, Chief Librarian to certify 'non-plagiarism' that will also be submitted along with the report / output
2. Registrar's Office to be the co-custodian of all signed MoUs, approved reports, and to generate Utilisation Certificates, Financial Audits, as mandated in the MoU.

¹⁶ <https://cdsco.gov.in/opencms/opencms/en/Clinical-Trial/Ethics-Committee/Ethics-Committee-Registration/> , last accessed on 14th October 2023.

Annexure 1: Steps for approval of Proposal by the Office of Academic Affairs

1. **Step 1-** Submission of proposal by Faculty member / Centre / School to AcAf at Link provided (in Word and pdf). Following specific data points to be additionally filled in by Proposer-
 - i. Title of the Proposal
 - ii. Name of Proposer (for communication purposes)
 - iii. School/s, Centre/s involved
 - iv. Funding agency/ies to be approached
 - v. Duration of the proposed project (in months)
 - vi. Spread of the proposed project (*drop down options*- Single location, Intra-State, Inter-State, Inter-country, Other (specify)_____)
 - vii. Nature of project (*drop down options*- Desk Research, Primary data-based (quantitative/qualitative/both), Advocacy, Intervention, Training and Capacity building, Conference/Seminar/Workshop, Other (specify)_____)
 - viii. Budget proposed (in INR)
 - ix. Supporting documents required (CU Act, TAN, PAN, Other (specify)_____)
 - x. Last date of submission of proposal.

2. **Step 2-** Qualification of proposal by AcAf-
 - i. Classified as (*drop down options*- Pilot Grant, Major Research Grant, Inter-disciplinary Challenge Grant, Other (specify)_____)
 - ii. Involvement of (*drop down options*- Clinical trials, Animal testing, Human Clinical testing, Human non-clinical testing, Other (specify)_____)
 - iii. Clearance through (*drop down options*- Desk Review, Expedited Review, Full Committee Review, Other (specify)_____)

3. **Step 3-** Approval of Proposal
 - i. Date of Review
 - ii. Status of Proposal as per review (*drop down options*- Accepted, Rejected, To be revised)
 - iii. Against 'accepted'- Formal Cover letter signed by Dean AcAf to be sent to Proposer for submission to Funding agency.
 - iv. Against 'rejected'- Reasons for rejection (*drop down options*- Does not meet eligibility criteria, does not meet with CU's quality standards, does not fall within CU's current project purview, Other (specify)_____)
 - v. Against 'revision' of proposal- Document comprising points made by review board to be sent to proposer. Date of submission of revised proposal – goes back to Step 1.

Steps for documentation and monitoring of Project by AcAf

1. Step 1- Snapshot of the Project

- i. Title of the Project
- ii. Name of Project Lead (for communication purposes)
- iii. Project Summary – 200 words or less
- iv. Period of the Project- Start Date and End Date
- v. Deliverables to be submitted by period (*drop down options-* Quarterly/monthly Progress Report, Inception Report, Interim Report, Draft Report, Final Report, Other (specify)____)
- vi. Payment terms
- vii. Supporting documents to be uploaded- Final approved proposal, Signed MoU / Sanction Letter / Grant Letter, Deliverables
- viii. Workplan to be uploaded (Gantt Chart)- An example is given below:

Activity	Responsibility by Team member	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11	M12
Draft the list of indicators													
Present indicators in a consultation workshop													
Develop guidelines for data collection													
Data collection: secondary sources													
Data collection: primary sources													
Data analytics													
Develop draft report													
Submit draft report													
Submit Final Report after incorporating feedback received													
Deliverables	To be submitted by Project Lead	First Quarterly Report											

2. Step 2- Monitoring of Project Progress and quality of Deliverables

- i. Reminder (one week in advance) to Project Lead for submission of deliverable for review
- ii. Status of Deliverable as per review (*drop down options-* Accepted, to be revised)
- iii. Against 'accepted'- Formal Cover letter signed by Dean AcAf to be sent to Project Lead for submission with Deliverable.
- iv. Against 'revision' of deliverable- Document comprising points made by Reviewer to be sent to Project Lead with date of submission of revised report

3. Step 3- Uploading of following documents with the closure of the project-

- i. Completion Certificate received from Funding agency upon formal completion of the project. In case of self-funded project- self-declaration by Project Lead of Project closure post uploading of approved final report.
- ii. Utilisation Certificate issued by CU
- iii. Financial Audit Report/s (as applicable)

Annexure 2: Review Meeting Protocol for the Ethics Review Committee¹⁷

The following types of reviews will be carried out by the ERC while examining the documents submitted by the Project Lead or the Principal Investigator.

1. Desk Review / Exemption from Review

Proposals with less than minimal risk where there are no linked identifiers, for example;

- research conducted on data available in the public domain for systematic reviews or meta-analysis;
- observation of public behaviour when information is recorded without any linked identifiers and disclosure would not harm the interests of the observed person;
- quality control and quality assurance audits in the institution;
- comparison of instructional techniques, curricula, or classroom management methods;
- consumer acceptance studies related to taste and food quality; and
- public health programmes by Govt agencies such as programme evaluation where the sole purpose of the exercise is refinement and improvement of the programme or monitoring (where there are no individual identifiers).

2. Expedited review

Proposals that pose no more than minimal risk may undergo expedited review; Examples:

- research involving non-identifiable specimen and human tissue from sources like blood banks, tissue banks and left-over clinical samples;
- research involving clinical documentation materials that are non-identifiable (data, documents, records);
- modification or amendment to an approved protocol including administrative changes or correction of typographical errors and change in researcher(s);
- revised proposals previously approved through expedited review, full review or continuing review of approved proposals;
- minor deviations from originally approved research causing no risk or minimal risk;
- progress/annual reports where there is no additional risk, for example activity limited to data analysis. Expedited review of SAEs/unexpected AEs will be conducted by SAE subcommittee; and
- for multicentre research where a designated main EC among the participating sites has reviewed and approved the study, a local EC may conduct only an expedited review for site specific requirements in addition to the full committee common review
- research during emergencies and disasters.

¹⁷ https://main.icmr.nic.in/sites/default/files/guidelines/ICMR_Ethical_Guidelines_2017.pdf , last accessed on 14th October 2023.

3. Full Committee Review

All research proposals presenting more than minimal risk, and not covered under exempt or expedited review should be subject to full committee review; some examples:

- research involving vulnerable populations, even if the risk is minimal;
- research with minor increase over minimal risk;
- studies involving deception of participants;
- research proposals that have received exemption from review, or have undergone expedited review/undergone subcommittee review should be ratified by the full committee, which has the right to reverse/or modify any decision taken by the subcommittee or expedited committee;
- amendments of proposals/related documents (including but not limited to informed consent documents, investigator's brochure, advertisements, recruitment methods, etc.) involving an altered risk;
- major deviations and violations in the protocol;
- any new information that emerges during the course of the research for deciding whether or not to terminate the study in view of the altered benefit–risk assessment;
- research during emergencies and disasters either through an expedited review/ scheduled or unscheduled full committee meetings. This may be decided by Member Secretary depending on the urgency and need;
- prior approval of research on predictable emergencies or disasters before the actual crisis occurs for implementation later when the actual emergency or disaster occurs.

REFERENCES

https://www.ugc.gov.in/pdfnews/7771545_academic-integrity-Regulation2018.pdf, The Gazette of India, 2018, University Grants Commission Notification University Grants Commission (Promotion of Academic Integrity And Prevention Of Plagiarism In Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, Government of India, last accessed on 11th October 2023

<https://tiss.edu/view/6/research/institutional-review-board/> Institutional Review Board, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, last accessed on 11th October 2023

<https://www.jnu.ac.in/ierb> Institutional Ethics Review Board, Jawaharlal Nehru University, last accessed on 11th October 2023

https://ssd.isical.ac.in/sites/default/files/Standard%20Operating%20Procedures_draft_RC%2011062022_final_for%20uploading.pdf Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the Review Committee for Protection of Research Rights to Humans (RCPRRH), Indian Statistical Institute, last accessed on 11th October 2023

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