

BREB WINTER NEWSLETTER 2017

TCPS₂ TUTORIAL NOW REQUIRED FOR EVERYONE!

UBC has altered its policy regarding training in research ethics for all applicants. All researchers, including faculty, must now take the TCPS 2 Course on Research Ethics (CORE). It is also recommended that faculty and students update their RISE profiles to include the date of certification for the tutorial.

CORE:

<https://tcps2core.ca/welcome>

Click [here](#) for guidance on how to update your profile.



EXCLUSION OF RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS BASED ON LANGUAGE

The TCPS 2 stipulates that language should not be a barrier to participation in research. The rationale is that anyone who may benefit from research findings should be able to contribute to the research. While this policy has been in effect for some time, it has not been fully enforced due to the potential cost implications. For example, because graduate research is often self-funded, with little or no research budget, it seemed an excessive burden to impose this requirement on graduate students. The same cannot be said of research funded by SSHRC, CIHR, and NSERC, which uses taxpayer money for the national good. Also, research strategies may be differentially affected. For some research, the burden may only require translating study information and consent forms, while other studies that use standardized, validated measures might be faced with translating and validating these research tools for each language.

While ethically we are obliged to conduct research that is inclusive, inclusion should not alter the basic research questions and objectives. Ideally, the inclusion of non-English participants should take place at the proposal stage rather than during ethics approval. The UBC Office of Research Ethics is considering fair and effective means of including speakers and readers of languages other than English in research in accordance with the TCPS₂ guidelines. We solicit your comments and recommendations.

For further information, please see: [Exclusion of research participants based on language.pdf](#)

DATA SECURITY

UBC faculty and students conducting research are required to use a UBC hosted email address for research. Gmail accounts, or the like, are not permissible.

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

Before beginning the ethics application process, graduate students should consult the Graduate student tip sheet found here:

https://ethics.research.ubc.ca/sites/ore.ubc.ca/files/documents/Tip_Sheet-BREB-Grad_Students.pdf. Following these guidelines will assist in proper completion of students' applications and will facilitate the review process. The final version of students' research proposals must have approval by their supervisory committee before the ethics application is reviewed by BREB.

UBC FLUIDSURVEY TOOL

UBC FluidSurveys is a survey tool accessible by all UBC faculty, students, and staff, and it complies with the BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The licensing agreement is expected to end as of June 30th, 2017, at which point UBC hopes to have another survey tool in place. For updates on the status of FluidSurveys, please see the following website:

<https://it.ubc.ca/services/teaching-learning-tools/survey-tool/fluidsveys-licensing-status-updates>

Data security remains an ongoing concern. Both BC privacy legislation and UBC policy require data with personally identifying information to be password protected and encrypted. Please check with IT services in your faculty as they can provide encryption software for faculty and graduate students.

UBC also provides Workspace <https://it.ubc.ca/services/web-servers-storage/workspace-20>, a secure cloud service to store and share data that meets BC and UBC security and privacy requirements. It is available to all UBC employees (note that graduate students are considered employees if they have a staff appointment).

Some countries prohibit encrypted computers (Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan, and Syria) while others require a permit (including Belarus, Burma, China, Hungary, Iran, Israel). For more information, please see the [UBC advisory](#).

OPEN ACCESS

The Tri-Council agencies recently released a [Principle on Digital Data Management](#). This statement states that data collected with the use of public funds belong, to the extent possible, in the public domain and available for reuse by others. Many journals are also requiring researchers to publish or make available their datasets. Researchers should be aware of this when designing their study and should include a statement in their consent forms, which takes into consideration the potential for future use of the data, as well as have plans in place for data security and data management.

RESEARCH CONNECTED TRAVEL

Graduate students who are conducting their research outside of Canada must complete the Safety Abroad program <https://safetyabroad.ubc.ca>.

Faculty should also consult the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs travel advisory website to assess the risk in the country and regions in which they plan to conduct research <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>. If the region or the country you will be visiting is subject to an "avoid non-essential travel" or "avoid all travel" advisory, your UBC extended health insurance, travel health insurance, or your trip cancellation insurance may be affected.

BC ETHICS HARMONIZATION INITIATIVE (BCEHI)

Recently, institutions and health authorities taking part in the BCEHI were awarded a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research grant to facilitate the use of RISE as the BC wide harmonization platform. This will enable researchers from all participating institutions and health authorities to submit one multijurisdictional ethics application for all sites, streamlining the review process. The platform will launch in early 2018.