

**The University of Hong Kong**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**Departmental Research Ethics Review for Taught Postgraduate Dissertation/Thesis**

All taught postgraduate level research projects are required to undergo ethics review by the Departmental Research Ethics Committee (DREC). Applications should be submitted online. Each research ethics application should include the following:

- a) application form [[click here](#)] for dissertation of MSocSc in Clinical Psychology, MSocSc in Educational Psychology, MSocSc in Psychology, and theses of PsyD in Clinical Psychology and PsyD in Educational Psychology programmes
  - For subsequent **amendment** of an approved application OR application for **extension** of an ethical approval, please fill in an amendment form [[click here](#)]
  - For application for **exemption** from ethical approval, please fill in this form [[click here](#)]
- b) a summary of the proposed study, describing the objectives, research plan and methodology
- c) an informed consent form  
Please refer to Points 16, 17, 18 & 19 of the Operational Guidelines and Procedures of HRECNCF [<http://www.rss.hku.hk/HREC/guidelines.pdf>].
- d) a debriefing form (required if your study involves deception).
- e) a completed checklist for research ethics application (embedded in the online form)
- f) a full set of questionnaires (if you use any in your proposed research)

**Sample of Consent and Related Forms**

In the Informed Consent Form and Debriefing Form, please make sure there is at least one HKU email address of either the student investigator or the research supervisor since some participants might query the authenticity of the research if no official HKU contact information was included.

In addition, it is inappropriate to include the HREC contact information in the Informed Consent Form/Debriefing Form since all TPg research ethics applications are approved by the Departmental Research Ethics Committee. **Sample templates of [Informed Consent Form \(for Adults\)](#) and [Debriefing Form](#) is now available at the department website.** If your research projects need to use other templates of Informed Consent Form (e.g. for Parent, Principal), Student Assent Forms or Debriefing Forms at the [HREC website](#), please (i) change the contact information from HREC to the Department Office of Psychology, HKU (3917-7122) and (ii) delete the line about “HREC Reference Number/HREC Approval Expiration Date”.

Applications for ethics approval should be submitted online according to the schedule as specified by the respective programme. Please note that researchers may be asked by the reviewer to revise and re-submit their ethics application. It may take up to a month (from the date of first submission) to obtain ethics approval during semester time, and up to two months between semesters.

For each approved ethics application, the Departmental Research Ethics Committee (DREC) will send email to students to indicate that the study has been approved. Approval is valid for one or two year(s) depending on the programme.