

# **Ethics Guide**

## **Call for PhD Studentships in all Scientific Domains 2023**

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**March 2023**

Please use this list as guidance for identifying the main ethics issues concerning your research plan activities.

#### **ETHICS ISSUE 1: HUMAN EMBRYOS/FOETUS**

1. Does this research involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?
  - 1.1 If yes, will they be directly derived from embryos within this project?
  - 1.2 If yes, are they previously established cells lines?
2. Does this research involve the use of human embryos?
  - 2.1 If yes, will the research lead to their destruction?
3. Does this research involve the use of human foetal tissues/cells?

#### **ETHICS ISSUE 2: HUMANS**

1. Does this research involve human participants?
  - 1.1 If yes, are they volunteers for social or human sciences research?
  - 1.2 If yes, are they persons unable to give informed consent?
  - 1.3 If yes, are they vulnerable individuals or groups (children, patients, discriminated people, minorities, persons unable to give consent, people of dissenting, immigrant or minority communities, sex workers, etc.)?
  - 1.4 If yes, are they children/minors?
  - 1.5 If yes, are they patients?
  - 1.6 If yes, are they healthy volunteers for medical studies?
2. Does this research involve physical interventions on the study participants?
  - 2.1 If yes, does it involve invasive techniques?

#### **ETHICS ISSUE 3: HUMANS CELLS/TISSUES**

1. Does this research involve human cells or tissues? (other than from Human Embryos/Foetuses, see section 1)
  - 1.1 If yes, are they available commercially?
  - 1.2 If yes, are they obtained within this project?
  - 1.3 If yes, are they obtained from another project, laboratory or institution?
  - 1.4 If yes, are they obtained from biobank?

#### **ETHICS ISSUE 4: PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA**

1. Does this research involve personal data collection and/or processing?
  - 1.1 If yes, does it involve the collection and/or processing of sensitive personal data (e.g., health, sexual lifestyle, ethnicity, political opinion, religious or philosophical conviction)?
  - 1.2 If yes, does it involve processing of genetic information?
  - 1.3 If yes, does it involve tracking or observation of participants?
2. Does this research involve further processing of previously collected personal data (secondary use)?

#### **ETHICS ISSUE 5: ANIMALS**

1. Does this research involve animals?
  - 1.1 If yes, are they vertebrates?
  - 1.2 If yes, are they non-human primates (NHPs)?
  - 1.3 If yes, are they genetically modified?
  - 1.4 If yes, are they cloned farm animals?
  - 1.5 If yes, are they endangered species?

**ETHICS ISSUE 6: THIRD COUNTRIES**

1. In case non-EU countries are involved, do the research related activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues?
2. Is it planned to use local resources (e.g., animal and/or human tissue samples, genetic material, live animals, human remains, materials of historical value, endangered fauna or flora samples, etc.)?
3. Is it planned to import any material – including personal data – from non-EU countries into the EU?
4. Is it planned to export any material – including personal data – from the EU to non-EU countries?
5. In case the research involves low and/or lower-middle income countries, are any benefit-sharing actions planned?
6. Could the situation in the country put the individuals taking part in the research at risk?

**ETHICS ISSUE 7: ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH AND SAFETY**

1. Does your research involve the use of elements that may cause harm to the environment, to animals or plants?
2. Does your research deal with endangered fauna and/or flora/protected areas?
3. Does your research involve the use of elements that may cause harm to humans, including research staff?

**ETHICS ISSUE 8: DUAL USE**

Does this research involve dual-use items (goods, software, technology that can be used for both civilian and military applications and/or can contribute to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction) in the sense of Council Regulation (EC) No. 428/2009, or other items for which an authorisation is required?

**ETHICS ISSUE 9: EXCLUSIVE FOCUS ON CIVIL APPLICATIONS**

Could your research raise concerns regarding the exclusive focus on civil applications?

**ETHICS ISSUE 10: MISUSE**

Does your research have a potential for misuse (potential for malevolent/criminal/terrorist abuse) of research results?