

Undertakings Requiring Review by the University of Winnipeg Human Research Ethics Board (UHREB)

1.0 In accordance with the [Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Humans](#) (TCPS2, 2018), all research, scholarship, and teaching exercises involving living human participants or human biological materials undertaken under the aegis of The University of Winnipeg require review and approval by the appropriate ethics committee(s) before the project begins (see [Chapter 12](#)). Review and approval by the UHREB are required:

- whether the work is undertaken by faculty, staff, or students;
- whether or not it is funded by or jointly conducted with outside agencies;
- whether it is funded or unfunded¹;
- whether it is conducted inside or outside Canada;
- whether or not it is intended for publication;
- whether or not it is a pilot study;
- whether or not it is conducted as a pedagogical exercise; and
- regardless of the number of participants involved.

1.1 Contract research must be approved if, in securing the contract and/or conducting the research, the researcher references his/her University of Winnipeg affiliation and/or uses any of the resources of the University.

1.2 All undertakings that involve the collection of information regarding living human participants, including but not limited to tests, observations, questionnaires, interviews, written communications, and/or representations (such as photographs, audio recordings, video or digital recordings, etc.) of living human participants, normally require approval, except as indicated below.

2.0 Exceptions

2.1 UHREB review is not required if the information collected is restricted to that which is publicly available, including open-access web documents, archival documents and records of public interviews or performances.

2.2 Research about an individual involved in the public arena, or about an artist, does not require ethics review if it is based exclusively on publicly available information. However, it does require REB review if the individual and/or third parties are approached directly for interviews or for access to private materials under their control.

2.3 UHREB review is not intended to preclude critical commentary or free inquiry. Critical research may be justifiable even in cases where the careers or social status of people in positions of power could be harmed by reporting the results of the research. (See [TCPS 2 \(2018\), Chapter 3](#), Articles 3.6 and 3.7 for guidance.)

2.4 UHREB review is not required for quality assurance studies, performance reviews, and testing within normal educational requirements. [TCPS 2 \(2018\), Chapter 2](#), Article 2.5 indicates that studies related directly to assessing the performance of an organization or its employees or

¹Research that is unfunded and/or has not been peer-reviewed may require that a scholarly/peer review be conducted by a recognized expert prior to submission of an application to the UHREB. The form can be found in the Forms section of this [page](#).



students, within the mandate of the organization or according to the terms and conditions of employment or training, should not be subject to REB review. However, if performance reviews or studies are also intended in part for research purposes, UHREB review is required. If any identifiable data collected is later proposed for research purposes, UHREB review will be required (see [TCPS 2 \(2018\) Chapter 5, Section D](#)). “Research purposes” as used in this document signifies the researchers’ intention to report on the data analysis in scholarly venues.

2.5 Use of research methods for the purpose of clinical/professional skills development in a class room setting does not require UHREB review if the data collected will not also be used for research purposes. Examples are measuring, recording, analyzing and reporting on biometric indicators of fellow students in an Athletic Therapy course; recording observations of K-12 students in an Education practicum and drawing on them in a class assignment. However, research activities conducted as part of course based activities outside of the classroom, even if only for pedagogical purposes, still requires ethics review at the DEC level as per Guidance Document 4.

2.6 Observational studies of persons in public places where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy do not require UHREB review as long as:

- (1) the study does not involve any intervention staged by the researcher, or direct interaction with the individuals or groups; **and**
- (2) any dissemination of research results will not allow identification of specific individuals. (See [TCPS 2 \(2018\), Chapter 2](#), Article 2.3.)

However, all other categories of observational research require review, as described in [TCPS 2 2018 Chapter 10](#), Article 10.3). See Guidance Document 7 on REB review of observational research involving children, captive or dependent populations, and vulnerable individuals.