



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

UW-UHREB 4.001	Scholarly/Peer Review of Non-Peer Reviewed Research
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Approving Body	
Responsible Officer	Vice-President, Research and Innovation

1. PURPOSE

The *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans* (TCPS 2) (2018) directs research ethics boards (REBs) to assess the ethical implications of a study's methods and design. Research in the humanities and social sciences that does not involve more than minimal risk shall not normally be required to be peer reviewed. By contrast, research in the biomedical and health fields normally carries the expectation of peer review even in minimal risk studies. In short, the expectations for peer review of research need to take relevant disciplinary standards into account in the determination of the ethical acceptability of research.

REBs should be informed by the scholarly review of research and not duplicate it. When no formal scholarly review has been undertaken and the research involves more than minimal risk, the UHREB may require that a researcher obtain a review by a qualified expert. The UHREB may, at its discretion, require a scholarly review for some minimal risk studies.

This policy sets out the process for the scholarly review of non-peer reviewed research where the UHREB has determined that scholarly review is required.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

This procedure applies to all UHREB members, including the Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

3. SPECIFIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. FUNDED FACULTY RESEARCH

Faculty (including instructors) may undertake research that is funded by The University of Winnipeg, or by a provincial, national, or international organization or foundation. In general, only funded research will have been subject to a scholarly review by academic peers. These peers will have considered the expertise of the researcher, the context of the research, the

appropriateness of the study methods and design, and the expected contribution that the research will make to a field of inquiry. Peer review assessments are not principally focused on the ethical acceptability of the research. However, the UHREB may benefit from the knowledge that a scholarly review has been conducted for faculty research that has been funded.

B. UNFUNDED (OR SELF-FUNDED) FACULTY RESEARCH

Faculty (including instructors) may undertake research that has not been funded by The University of Winnipeg or any other organization. With such research, there will likely have been no scholarly review of the research.

To facilitate the review of unfunded (or self-funded) research, the UHREB may require that researchers arrange for a scholarly review to be carried out, and that the review be included in any application to the UHREB. Scholarly reviews of unfunded (or self-funded) faculty research are normally required when the proposed research is more than minimal risk. However, the UHREB may exercise its discretion to require that a researcher obtain a scholarly review for minimal risk research, particularly when the study design and methods suggest that a review is warranted.

The requirements for the scholarly review are as follows:

- The person doing the scholarly/peer review must have the expertise in the field and have no conflict of interest, so as to be able to give an independent and unbiased review.
- The review shall include an assessment of:
 - The context of the research;
 - The study methods and design;
 - The recruitment of study participants;
 - The plans for the analysis of data;
 - The plans for the storage of data;
 - The expected contribution of the research to the discipline or field of inquiry.

C. GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

In partial fulfillment of the degree requirements for a graduate degree, students may carry out independent research. Graduate student research that is made possible through scholarships from local, provincial, national or international organizations or foundations still requires a scholarly review if the proposed research is more than minimal risk. This is because the details of a study's methods and design will not likely have been fully articulated in a scholarship application. The UHREB may exercise its discretion to require that a graduate student researcher obtain a scholarly review for minimal risk research, particularly when the study design and methods suggest that a review is warranted.

Prior to the submission of an application to the UHREB that is greater than minimal risk, a graduate student researcher must obtain a scholarly review. The requirements for the scholarly review are as follows:

- The person doing the scholarly/peer review must have the expertise in the field and have no conflict of interest, so as to be able to give an independent and unbiased review.
- The review shall include an assessment of:
 - The context of the research;
 - The study methods and design;
 - The recruitment of study participants;
 - The plans for the analysis of data;
 - The plans for the storage of data;
 - The expected contribution of the research to the discipline or field of inquiry.
- The review must be scrutinized by the graduate student's advisor. The advisor will provide a commentary to the UHREB regarding the scholarly review and any responses to review comments by the graduate student.

The scholarly review and the graduate advisor's assessment should be attached to the application to the UHREB.