

# Do I need ethics approval?

Is one of the intended purposes of the activity, project or data collection 'research'?  
The definition of research is an 'undertaking intended to extend knowledge through a disciplined inquiry or systematic investigation<sub>1</sub>'

Yes or Not Sure

No or Not Sure

Will the undertaking involve living human participants<sub>2</sub> who may be observed, provide information, data, or responses to interventions, stimuli, or questions that are intended to help answer the research question?

Yes

No

Will the undertaking involve individuals whose involvement is intended to answer the research question?

Yes

No

Ethics review and approval needed

Ethics Review is not required when the research may involve individuals who are not themselves the focus of the research to obtain information. Such individuals are not considered participants<sub>11</sub>.

Will the undertaking involve the observation of people<sub>4</sub>?

Yes

No

Will the observation be in public places?

Yes

No

Ethics review not required.

Ethics review is required.

Ethics review is not required for the observation of people in public places when it does not involve any staged intervention or direct interaction with individuals or groups, there is no expectation of privacy, and dissemination of results do not identify individuals.

Is the sole intended purpose of the undertaking for MacEwan quality assessment or management purposes to improve services or practices within a program, department, club or faculty<sub>3</sub>?

Yes

No

Contact the MacEwan Office of Institutional Analysis and Planning (IAP)<sub>5</sub> for information on the review of surveys and evaluations conducted on campus.

If your project involves collecting or receiving data to assess **external** organizations, it may need review. Contact Research Ethics Officer (ROE)<sub>6</sub> to discuss.

Will the undertaking rely exclusively on publicly available literature or other information<sub>7</sub>?

Yes

No

Ethics review not required.

Ethics review may be needed. Contact the REO<sub>6</sub>.

Will the undertaking use a person's non-anonymous<sub>8</sub> data or information that was collected for one purpose but now being proposed for another purpose<sub>9</sub>?

Yes

No

Ethics review is required.

Will the undertaking involve the use of human biological materials derived from living or deceased individuals<sub>10</sub>?

Yes

No

Ethics review not required.

# References

1. TCPS2: Research Requiring Research Ethics Board Review, [Article 2.1 and Application](#)
2. TCPS2: Research Requiring Research Ethics Board Review, [Article 2.1 and Application](#)
3. TCPS2: Activities Not Requiring Research Ethics Board Review, [Article 2.5](#)
4. TCPS2: Research Exempt from Research Ethics Board Review, [Article 2.3 and Application](#)
5. MacEwan University Institutional Analysis and Planning, [IAP@macewan.ca](mailto:IAP@macewan.ca)
6. Research Ethics Officer, [REB@macewan.ca](mailto:REB@macewan.ca)
7. TCPS2: Research Exempt from Research Ethics Board Review, [Article 2.2 and Application](#)
8. Non-anonymous refers to information that was initially collected with identifiers. The data may now be removed of identifiers, making it anonymized. The identifiers may be completely stripped or kept separately in a key. If the applicant has access to they key, ethics approval with participant consent is needed. If the applicant does not have access to the identifiers, ethics approval is required, but consent may be waived, [Article 5.5B and Application](#).
9. TPCS2: Secondary use of anonymous datasets does not require Research Ethics Board Review, [Article 2.4 and Application](#).  
  
Secondary use of datasets that include identifiable information, or were originally collected with identifiable information and have since been anonymized, see [Chapter 5D: Consent and Secondary Use of Information for Research Purposes](#).
10. TCPS2: Research Requiring Research Ethics Board Review, [Article 2.1 and Application](#)  
Also see [Chapter 12: Human Biological Materials Including Materials Related to Human Reproduction](#)
11. TCPS2: Research Requiring Research Ethics Board Review, [Article 2.1 and Application](#)

Click [here](#) for the full Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS2 2018)