



جامعة لوسيل
Lusail University
— QATAR —

Draft

**Research Ethics Policy in the
Social and Behavioral Sciences
(SBS) at Lusail University**

Article (1) – Definitions

For the purposes of implementing the provisions of this policy, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings indicated next to each, unless the context requires otherwise

University	Lusail University
President	Lusail University President
Provost	Lusail University Provost
Committee	Research Ethics Committee (IRB)
Participant	Any person who takes part in scientific research, either directly or indirectly
Informed Consent	Participant's consent after being informed of the research objectives, procedures, and potential risks and benefits
Research Project	Research is any study or scientific project conducted on humans or their personal data in the field of social and behavioral sciences
Researcher	In this policy, a researcher refers to a faculty member or a university student who participates in conducting scientific research in the field of social and behavioral sciences, whether as a principal or co-researcher, and bears academic and ethical responsibility for all stages of the research, including its design, implementation, and publication of its results.

Article (2) - Goals

This policy aims to:

1. Protect the rights and well-being of participants in all research involving humans.
2. Ensure the integrity and reliability of research findings.
3. Provide a clear framework for researchers to make sound ethical decisions.
4. Comply with local and international laws and regulations related to human research.
5. Enhance public trust in the outcomes of scientific research in the social and behavioral sciences

Article (3) - Principles

This policy is based on the following principles:

1. Respect: Valuing the dignity and rights of all research participants.
2. Transparency: Clarity of research procedures and informed consent.
3. Integrity: Commitment to honesty and accuracy at all stages of the research.
4. Justice: Treating all participants fairly and without discrimination.
5. Accountability: Adherence to accurate reporting and ethical review by the relevant authorities.
6. Safety and Well-being: Protecting participants from any physical, psychological, or social harm.
7. Independence: The committee enjoys full independence in its decisions, and no internal or external entity may influence its work.

Article (4) -Values

This policy is based on the following values:

1. Mutual respect between researchers and participants.
2. Professional responsibility in all aspects of research.
3. Ethical commitment according to the highest scientific and academic standards.
4. Transparency and credibility in publishing results and sharing knowledge.
5. Continuous learning: Improving ethical research practices through ongoing training and awareness.
6. Scientific benefit: Ensuring that the research provides scientific, social, and economic value to the country.

Article (5) – Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all researchers, students, collaborators, and institutions involved in research involving humans within the fields of social and behavioral sciences.

Article (6) – Informed Consent

The researcher must adhere to the following:

1. Written informed consent must be obtained from all participants before the start of the research.
2. A clear explanation of the research objectives, procedures, and potential risks and benefits must be provided.
3. Participants have the right to withdraw from the research at any time without any consequences.

Article (7) – Data Protection

University researchers must adhere to the following:

1. Personal data must be kept strictly confidential.
2. Data must be used for research purposes only.
3. Data must be stored securely, ensuring no unauthorized access.

Article (8) – Research Review

University researchers must adhere to the following:

1. All research involving humans must be submitted to the committee before implementation.
2. Ethical risks are reviewed, and it is ensured that necessary precautionary measures are taken.

Article (9) – Training and Awareness

University researchers must adhere to the following:

1. All researchers must undergo periodic training in human research ethics.

2. Raise awareness of ethical principles and researchers' obligations toward participants.

Article (10) – Reporting Violations

University researchers must adhere to the following:

1. Any ethical violations or complaints related to the research must be reported immediately.
2. Violations are to be investigated, appropriate corrective actions taken, and referred to the relevant authorities within the university.

Article (11) – Policy Review

This policy is subject to annual review and updates to ensure its compliance with the latest ethical standards and local and international laws.

Article (12) – Practical Research Procedures

University researchers must adhere to the following:

1. Research submission: The researcher must submit a research request form to the committee before starting the study.
2. Approval review: The committee reviews the request to ensure the research complies with ethical principles, including participant protection and informed consent.
3. Data collection: Ethical procedures must be followed during data collection, ensuring the confidentiality and privacy of participants.
4. Documentation: Complete records of all procedures must be maintained, including copies of informed consents, data collection methods, and analysis.
5. Incident reporting: Any ethical issue or harm to participants must be reported immediately to the ethics committee, and corrective actions must be taken.

6. Review of results: Before publishing research results, the accuracy of data must be verified, and ethical principles must be adhered to in presentation and publication.
7. Changes in research methodology: Any significant changes to the research methodology or tools must be approved by the committee

Article (13) – University Relationship with Funding Agencies

University researchers must adhere to the following:

1. All research funded by external agencies must comply with the ethics policy approved by the university.
2. No funding agency may interfere with the research results or control their publication.
3. Researchers must disclose any potential conflicts of interest with funding agencies.
4. Researchers who have obtained ethics approval from international bodies must attach it with the research for review by the committee.

Article (14) – Researchers from Outside the University

University researchers must adhere to the following:

1. All researchers from external institutions must comply with the university's research ethics policy.
2. A cooperation agreement must be signed, outlining the responsibilities and ethical obligations of external researchers.
3. Research approval is granted after reviewing the external researchers' compliance with the approved ethical principles and procedures.

Article (15) – Persons with Disabilities or Intellectual Impairments

University researchers must adhere to the following:

1. No research may be conducted on persons with disabilities or intellectual impairments unless the research has a direct scientific benefit related to their condition or group.
2. Consent must be obtained from a parent or legal guardian in addition to the participant's own consent, as much as possible, in accordance with their cognitive abilities.
3. The researcher must ensure that participation is entirely voluntary and that the participant or their guardian clearly understands all information related to the research.
4. Additional precautions must be taken to protect the rights and safety of this group from any exploitation or psychological or social harm.
5. The study or research must not conflict with any local laws or customs of the State of Qatar.
6. Research tools must be designed to include appropriate communication methods that facilitate understanding for participants with disabilities or intellectual impairments.

Article (15) – The Committee

University researchers must adhere to the following:

7. The committee is established at the university by a decision of the university administration and is the authorized body for reviewing and approving all research involving humans.
8. The committee consists of members with expertise in scientific, ethical, and legal fields, and external members may be included when necessary.

Article (16) – Committee Jurisdiction

The committee is responsible for the following:

1. Reviewing research protocols to ensure compliance with ethical standards.
2. Issuing decisions to approve, reject, or request modifications before the start of the research.
3. Monitoring ethical compliance during the conduct of research and after its completion.
4. Maintaining records of meetings, decisions, and documents related to ethical review.

This document is effective from the date of its approval by the University Council.