

School of Environment and Development

Ethics Approval for Student Research Projects with Young Adults and Children

This template allows the School of Environment and Development to approve student research projects (at UG and PGT level) that comply to the template. If the Student's research project does not comply to the template then the student's ethics approval application form must be referred to UREC for approval.

1. Details of Project

- The project is to be conducted by a student within the School of Environment and Development
- The research aims and the reason for the research has been fully justified.
- The proposed data collection and analysis methods are appropriate for the study.
- The scientific quality of the research has been assessed by an internal review¹ within the School of Environment and Development.
- A full risk assessment has been undertaken on the appropriate form for UK and/or overseas research
- The students have successfully completed one of the following course units/compulsory workshops
 - GEOG 20820 Doing Geographical Research
 - PLAN30000 Dissertation
 - IDPM Dissertation workshops (covers MGD/DIG cluster PGT programmes only)
 - Planning PGT Dissertation Workshops
 - GEOG 70932 Dissertation
 - IDPM 60300 Research Skills for Economic Development
 - IDPM70982 Development Research

2. Methodology

Student research projects working with young adults/ children fall into the following two categories:

- Largely Qualitative
- Mixed Methods

Working with young adults/ children requires that the methodology is not only appropriate for children but that it fully takes consideration of the need to take extra care. The student needs to demonstrate that they are prepared to be adaptable and have thought through appropriate mechanisms to take account of participants becoming distressed or disturbed whilst participating in the research. The nature of the participant group pre-supposes that contact with the participants will be direct.

3. Participants

Participants in the study are children and young adults under the age of sixteen.

¹ By the proposed project Supervisor

It is appropriate that they are included in the study as the research is about children/young adults

The student has Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Disclosures

Permission for the study to take place has been gained from relevant authority/organisation management. Additional permissions have been gained from persons responsible for activities within sub-settings of organisations [for example Head Teacher and Class teacher]. Permission has also been taken from the parent or guardian of the child. This will take the form of an active opt-in process, or 'tear-off' slip, returnable to the child's School or to the researcher directly, where the parent or guardian signs to permit their child to participate.

4 Recruitment

4.1 Identifying Participants to recruit

Participants will be identified by the student researcher or person in authority

Recruitment is conducted by the student unless they are in a position of authority over potential participants. In this case recruitment activities are undertaken by a 'facilitator' who is a colleague/manager with whom the potential participants do not have a dependent relationship.

4.2 Recruitment Methods

The recruitment will be via:

- Personal letters/ emails/ follow up phone calls
- Posters
- Advertisements
- Known or named client groups (school children, patients etc)
- Networks and recommendations

Recruitment by a person in authority will be via:

- Organisational records

4.3 Informed Consent

An information sheet (Appendix 1), accessible to the group concerned has been prepared which gives participants/parents² full details of the project. It will be made clear to participants/ parents that:

- No one will be made to participate in the research study against their will, and no undue influence will be exerted in order to persuade the participant to take part in the research.
- Participation is entirely voluntary and refusal will attract no sanction and no reason for non-participation is required.
- Participants/ parents are informed that if they agree to participate in the study, they are free to leave the study at any time without being required to give reasons for leaving.
- Anonymity and confidentiality will be maintained as far as possible. The exception would be if the child/ young person revealed that they are being harmed in any way, then the

² 'Parent' refers to an individual fulfilling a parental role in relation to a child. It therefore includes other family members, foster parents and other persons who have the main caring responsibility for the child

researcher has a duty to report to an appropriate authority. Depending on the age of the young person/ child then this will be done with their knowledge and wherever possible it will be agreed with them whom to tell.

4.4 Incentives

Participants will not receive any incentive for participating in the study, other than, where appropriate, travel expenses or a gift voucher to a value not exceeding £20.

5 Details of Risks

5.1 Procedures to be undertaken

None other than those taught as part of the students' **professional training** or forming part of existing **professional role**.

Training constitutes successful completion of one or more of the following course units:

GEOG 20820 Doing Geographical Research
PLAN30000 Dissertation
IDPM Dissertation workshops (covers MGD/DIG cluster PGT programmes only)
Planning PGT Dissertation Workshops
GEOG 70932 Dissertation
IDPM 60300 Research Skills for Economic Development
IDPM70982 Development Research

Professional role constitutes evidence of qualification and authorised current practice:

5.2 Activities to be undertaken

- Questionnaire administered by a person in authority – maximum 30 minutes
- Questionnaire administered by the researcher – maximum 30 minutes.
- Keeping a diary – maximum 10 minutes per day over 1 month.
- Attending a focus group – maximum 30 minutes
- Attending an interview – maximum 30 minutes
- Participating in an activity that is observed by the researcher - maximum 4 hours

A copy of questionnaires and/or focus group/interview questions/ or main topics and areas to be investigated is attached and appropriate to the study.

The student researcher has successfully completed of one or more of the following course units:

GEOG 20820 Doing Geographical Research
PLAN30000 Dissertation
IDPM Dissertation workshops (covers MGD/DIG cluster PGT programmes only)
Planning PGT Dissertation Workshops
GEOG 70932 Dissertation
IDPM 60300 Research Skills for Economic Development
IDPM70982 Development Research

5.3 What are the potential adverse effects, risks or hazards for research participants, including potential for pain, discomfort, distress, inconvenience or changes to lifestyle for research participants?

No, or only marginal adverse effects, risks or hazards for research participants have been identified, including potential for pain, discomfort, distress, or changes to lifestyle, at the time of application.

5.4 Will individual or group interviews/ questionnaires discuss any topics or issues that might be sensitive, embarrassing or upsetting, or is it possible that criminal or other disclosures requiring action could take place during the study (e.g. during interviews/group discussions, or use of screening tests for drugs)?

No individual or group interviews/ questionnaires will set out to discuss any topics or issues that might be embarrassing or upsetting, nor is it likely that criminal or other disclosures requiring action could take place during the study (e.g. during interviews/group discussions). However, as the participant group are young adults/ children then it is recognized that topics or issues that the researcher considers to be non-embarrassing or upsetting may cause discomfort for the participant.

5.5 Expected total duration of participation in the study for each participant

Maximum 4 hours

5.6 What is the potential for adverse effects, risks or hazards, pain, discomfort, distress, or inconvenience to the researchers themselves? (If any)

There are no potential adverse effects, risks or hazards, pain, discomfort, distress, or inconvenience to the researchers themselves identified at the time of application.

6. Safeguards

6.1 What precautions have been taken to minimise or mitigate the risks identified above?

Marginal risks identified for participants.

- If the activity is inconvenient then it will either be cancelled or rearranged for a time that is convenient for the participant. Continuation in the study at a later date will only be agreed with full consent from the participant and parent.
- If participants work in the same organisation where the research is being carried out then due care will be taken to ensure that the research will not interrupt normal organisational procedures.
- Where it is considered that there may be a **marginal likelihood** of a topic or issues being sensitive, difficulties are to be averted by a procedure of gaining ongoing consent. If distress occurs then the researcher will either stop the activity (dependant on the severity of the reaction) or will move on to the next area. It will be made clear to participants/parents that the participant can decline to answer particular questions or discuss particular topics.

Marginal risks identified for researchers.

- A risk assessment has been completed by the researcher's supervisor and has identified only marginal risk levels. A copy of the assessment and recommended

safeguards is attached.

6.2 Informed Consent

Informed consent (Appendix 2) will be obtained for all participants by the researcher. Information on the research (Appendix 1), in a format appropriate to the participant group, has been produced for the participant /parent which explains the study and includes the following details:

- the name of the researcher and contact details for the researcher or research facilitator for any questions prior to deciding whether to take part.
- an explanation that it is a student project and what the researcher, is hoping to achieve in the research
- what is going to be done by the researcher
- a clear explanation of what the participant is expected to do during the study
- a statement that the participant is not obliged to take part, and may withdraw at any time, may choose not to answer particular questions or discuss topics that they do not wish to.
- a clear statement of payment of travel expenses or offer of gift voucher.
- a clear statement on confidentiality and data security and usage.

Other information that will be included is as follows:

- duration of the study
- location of the study
- anticipated outcomes in respect of publication of findings

6.3 Will a signed record of consent be obtained

A record of consent in an appropriate format from both the participant and parent will be obtained prior to any research activities with the participant being carried out (Appendix 2).

The consent of a parent **only** will be obtained where the child is too young to comprehend the issues involved or the nature of the research and it is part of routine practice e.g. joining a reading table.

Participants/parents have the right to decline the use of data gathering devices such as tape recorders and video cameras, and use of direct quotations from transcripts in any published documents. Specific permission will be sought via the record of consent for the use of recording devices and quotations.

6.4 How long will the participant have to decide whether to take part in the research?

A minimum period of two weeks will be given for the participant/parent to decide whether to take part in the research.

6.5 What arrangements are in place to ensure participants receive any information that becomes available during the course of the research that may be relevant to their continued participation?

If any information, pertinent to the study, becomes available as the study progresses then participants/parents will be informed immediately. Participants/parents will be reminded

that their participation is voluntary and they are free to withdraw at any time.

6.6 What arrangements have been made to provide indemnity and/or compensation in the event of a claim by, or on behalf of, participants for (a) *negligent* harm and (b) *non-negligent* harm?

The research is being carried out wholly within the UK and if granted ethical approval, will be covered under the University's insurance arrangements for students conducting research.

7. Data Protection and Confidentiality

7.1 The researcher will abide by the provisions of the Data Protection Act and the University Data Protection Policy.

Data and results obtained from the research will only be used in the way(s) for which consent has been given.

Data will be:

- Fairly and lawfully processed
- Processed for limited purposes
- Adequate, relevant and not excessive
- Accurate
- Not kept longer than necessary
- Processed in accordance with the participant's rights
- Secure
- Not transferred to settings without adequate protection.

7.2 What measures have been put in place to ensure confidentiality of personal data? Give details of whether any encryption or other anonymisation procedures have been used and at what stage?

Anonymity will be preserved by the removal of identifiers and the use of ID numbers or pseudonyms, breaking the link between data and identifiable individuals.

Where such links need to be preserved in order to match data sets in a repeated measures design, coding frames including participant identities are to be kept securely in a locked draw (or other secure location, e.g. password protected data stick) accessed only by the researcher and separate from the data base.

7.3 Where will the analysis of the data from the study take place and by whom will it be undertaken?

The analysis will take place in a **private** study area by the student researcher conducting the study.

7.4 Who will have control of and act as the custodian for the data generated by the study?

The student researcher will control and act as custodian for the data generated by the study.

7.5 Who will have access to the data generated by the study?

The student researcher will have access to the data generated by the study. In addition the student researcher's supervisor may see the data, in order to guide the student in analysis, but only when all links that could identify individual participants have been removed.

7.6 For how long will data from the study be stored?

The data will be stored only until the study has successfully gone through the examination process and then shredded. A maximum of one year after confirmation of the degree result. It will be stored in a locked drawer, in the student researcher's home accessed by the student researcher only.

8. Reporting Arrangements

8.1 Please confirm that any adverse event will be reported to the Committee

Any adverse event will be reported to the UREC committee.

8.2 How is it intended the results of the study will be reported and disseminated?

Dissertation/ short report to participants/parents.

8.3 How will the results of research be made available to research participants and communities from which they are drawn?

A short accessible report will be sent to participants/parents in the study detailing the main results of the study. No individual feed back will be given to participants as links between the data and individuals will have been broken.

9. Funding and Sponsorship

This is a student project and does not have external funding, therefore the sponsor is the supervisor of the student.

10. Conflict of interest

No conflict of interest has been identified at the point of application. Should a conflict of interest become apparent as the study progresses then UREC will be informed.

Appendix 1

**University of Manchester
School of Environment and Development**

Participant Information Sheet

[complete each section]

What is the title of the research?

Who will conduct the research?

What is the aim of the research?

Why have I been chosen?

What would I be asked to do if I took part?

What happens to the data collected?

How is confidentiality maintained?

What happens if I do not want to take part or if I change my mind?

Will I be paid for participating in the research?

What is the duration of the research?

Where will the research be conducted?

Will the outcomes of the research be published?

Contact for further information

What if something goes wrong?

**University of Manchester
School of Environment and Development**

[insert title of dissertation/project/research]

[remove questions 3 and 4 if not relevant within your research]

CONSENT FORM

If you are happy to participate please read the consent form and initial it:

**Please
Initial
Box**

1. I confirm that I have read the attached information sheet on the above project and have had the opportunity to consider the information and ask questions and had these answered satisfactorily.

2. I understand that my participation in the study is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without detriment to any treatment/service

3. I understand that the interviews will be audio/video-recorded

4. I agree to the use of anonymous quotes

I agree to take part in the above project

Name of participant

Date

Signature

Name of person taking consent

Date

Signature
