

The University of Edinburgh
The Moray House School of Education
School Postgraduate Studies Committee
22nd November 2016

Update on School Ethics' Procedures Related to Postgraduate Students

Brief description of the paper

Key updates relating to the School Ethics' Research procedures

Action requested

For information and to action, as required, in relation to individual courses and programmes

Resource implications

Does the paper have resource implications? No

If 'Yes', in which section(s) of the paper are they described?

Risk assessment

Does the paper include a risk analysis? No

If 'Yes', in which section(s) of the paper is it set out?

Equality and diversity

Have due considerations been given to the equality impact of this paper? N/A

Freedom of information

Can this paper be included in open business? Yes

Originator of the paper

Ailsa Niven, Convenor of MHSE Ethics Committee, 16 November 2016

Update on School Ethics' Procedures Related to Postgraduate Students

- 1) Throughout this year, we are running a series of Research Ethics workshops for staff. Please find the programme at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/education/rke/research-support/ethical-approval> and we hope that you will find them useful. Thanks to Jane Brown the School Ethics Officer who has been working with IAD to develop a great programme.
- 2) Since the 1st August, the excellent on-line MHSE ethics application and approval process has now been rolled out for PhD/EdD and (where appropriate) MSc students, as well as staff. Martin Johnson and the RKE office have developed the online system, which helps facilitate effective completion and review of ethics applications. There is a guide for PhD/EdD and MSc students and a guide for staff available at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/education/rke/research-support/ethical-approval>.
- 3) There has been a change to the Approval Levels for ethics' applications. The approval levels are now graded from 1-4, and this replaces the previous 0-3 system. Please see <http://www.ed.ac.uk/education/rke/research-support/ethical-approval> for further information.
- 4) Following an internal audit and publication of the CAHSS Research Ethics and Integrity Action Plan (Sept 2015) steps are being taken to integrate ethics procedures in student research projects. Following a meeting with the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Deans there will likely be developments to:
 - Embed ethics in course creation pro forma;
 - Include compulsory ethics and integrity training for dissertation courses and in courses that require students to undertake research projects.
 - Include ethics in compulsory supervisory training session

Ailsa Niven
Convenor of MHSE Ethics Committee
16 November 2016