Where to go to get more information

Human Research Protection Program
Institutional Review Board

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PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Institutional Review Board (IRB) BASICS

Institutional Review Board (IRB)

What is the IRB?

"IRB" stands for Institutional Review Board.

What is the purpose of the IRB?

The mission of the IRB is to protect the rights, privacy, and welfare of human participants in research conducted by Princeton University faculty, staff, and students.

What is human subjects research?

The IRB oversees human subjects research. Both components ("human subjects" and "research") have to be met for the IRB to oversee it. Research means a systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.

Human subject means a living individual about whom an investigator (whether professional or student) conducting research: obtains information or biospecimens through intervention or interaction with the individual, and uses, studies, or analyzes the information or biospecimens OR obtains, uses, studies, analyzes, or generates identifiable private information or identifiable biospecimens.

Note that if your proposed research activity involves a drug, device, or biologic, other regulations and definitions may apply. Please contact the IRB for further clarification.

Can a student conduct human subjects research?

Yes, the regulations directly address that students can conduct human subjects research.

Can my activities done as part of an internship, summer work, junior project, or senior thesis constitute human subjects research?

Yes, the above activities may constitute human subjects research.

When do I obtain IRB approval for my human subjects research?

You must not do human subjects research before obtaining IRB approval.

How do I submit my IRB application materials?

Submission of new protocols is done online through **eRIA**, the IRB's Human Studies application system.

You can access the system at:
eria.princeton.edu

When should I expect a response from the IRB?

The IRB recommends submitting a study 2-3 months before the planned study start date. Implementation of the research without IRB approval represents noncompliance and must be reported to the IRB per **Princeton IRB policy #207: PI obligations.** Research activities includes recruitment, advertisement, screening, enrollment, consent, interventions, interactions, and collection or analysis of private identifiable information.

I'm not sure whether my proposed activity is human subjects research. What should I do?

E-mail a synopsis of the proposed activity (3 paragraphs) to the IRB: **irb@princeton.edu.** Include the draft study measurements (survey, questionnaire, interview guide), if applicable.

Questions? Contact us!

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