

RESEARCH ETHICS, *an introduction*



Emily Carr University of Art + Design promotes a high standard of ethics and integrity in research and scholarship.

The **Emily Carr University Research Ethics Board (ECU-REB)** reviews and approves all research involving human participants.

Graduate students who are planning research studies that involve participants are required to apply for ECU-REB approval before beginning research activities with participants.

This presentation will introduce you to the concept of research ethics and the process for seeking research ethics approval at Emily Carr University.



Your Research Ethics Resources

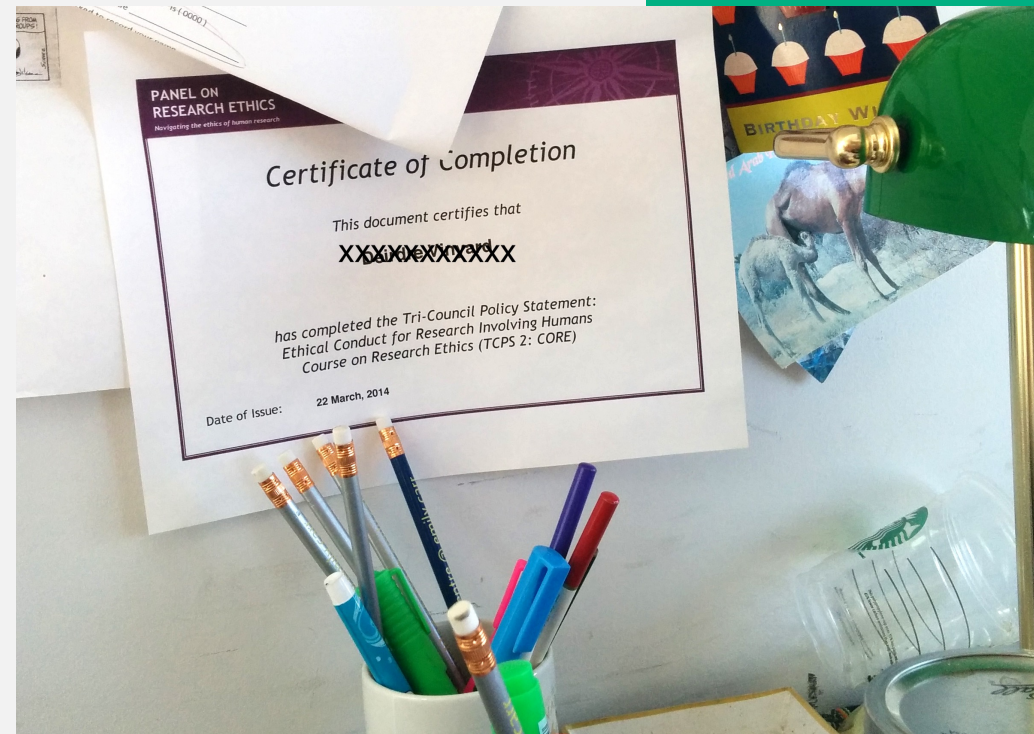
To start, please note these important research ethics resources for graduate students:

- [ECU-REB \(website\)](#)
- [TCPS2:CORE \(Course on Research Ethics\)](#)
- [Research Ethics + Conduct Library Guide](#)
- [Lois Klassen, Coordinator Research Ethics \(email\)](#)

TCPS 2 & RCR Framework

The ECU-REB is compliant with the Government of Canada's [Tri-Council Policy Statement on Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans](#) (2022), known as **TCPS 2**, and the [Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research](#) (2021), known as the **RCR Framework**. To comply with these standards, all graduate students must complete the [TCPS2:CORE \(Course on Research Ethics\)](#) before applying for research ethics approval.

- Use your ekuad.ca email address when you log in to the TCPS2:CORE so that we can help if you encounter problems.
- Keep your TCPS2:CORE certificate (pdf) accessible. It will be needed for every research ethics application.
- Your certificate is a credential that can be listed on your CV when you apply for a research position.





Research Ethics and REBs

The voluntary consent of the human subject [in research] is absolutely essential.

Nuremberg Code, 1948

Universally accepted standards for how human participants are expected to be treated in research have circulated since the Nuremberg Tribunal ruled that the use of prisoners during WW2 as research subjects constituted a war crime. The resulting Nuremberg Code established *informed consent* as a primary principle of research ethics.

In Canada, the TCPS2 describes the core principles of research ethics as, **respect for persons**, **concern for welfare**, and **justice**. Today, research ethics standards, protocols, and regulations exist in most jurisdictions around the world. In most places, including Canada, these standards are upheld by Research Ethics Boards (REBs) which provide education, reviews, and approvals of research projects involving human participants.

Timing Research Ethics

Graduate students can expect to encounter research ethics at these times during their studies:

First Year

- Students are advised to complete the **TCPS2:CORE** early in first year. It may be required by instructors of research courses. It may be a requirement for some RAships.
- Students can apply for research ethics approval *after* their project plans are approved in the interim review (end of first year). REB applications must be supported and submitted by an academic supervisor. Supervisors are listed as the principal investigator (PI) on all REB applications. The application process for students is described on the [ECU-REB \(website\)](#).

Second Year

- With REB approval, students can complete research activities with participants. The ECU-REB requires final reports of the numbers of participants and any adverse outcomes. Final reports must be completed after the activities involving participants are over, and **before graduation**.



Research Ethics and Creative Practices

Creative practice activities, in and of themselves, do not require REB review. However, research that employs creative practice to obtain responses from participants that will be analyzed to answer a research question is subject to REB review. TCPS2, 2022.

The ECU-REB recognizes a distinction between **research** that involves human participants and **creative practices** that involve human participants. While both are expected to uphold high standards of ethical integrity, including informed consent, creative practices do not require review and approval by the ECU-REB. For this reason, MFA projects rarely require research ethics review. Creative activities in MDes projects that are used to develop relationships and research methods may also be exempt.

Note: The outcomes of exempted activities (with participants) cannot be “analyzed to answer a research question” without **prior** REB review and approval.



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Get in touch

Research ethics resources and assistance are available to graduate students at any time during your studies. Do not hesitate to contact the **ECU-REB** or **Lois Klassen**, Coordinator, Research Ethics by email.

ethics@ecuad.ca

