



Research Ethics Framework: Policy for Human and Animal Studies

Introduction

The College of Dentistry at Tikrit University is dedicated to upholding the highest ethical standards in research involving human participants or animals. The Research Ethics Committee in the College of Dentistry (RECCOD) is dedicated to address any ethical issues that may pose environmental risks, social tensions, or unethical harm to laboratory animals. All research proposals must be reviewed by the RECCOD before any research activities begin.

The RECCOD ensures that researchers at the College of Dentistry, Tikrit University, adhere to the highest ethical principles, including the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki, as well as Iraqi cultural values when conducting research involving human participants. Researchers should always consider the perspectives of participants and others who may be affected by their projects. The RECCOD insures to follow the international law and legislations in regards to research using animals.

All Proposals submitted by college staff and students will be reviewed in details by the RECCOD to insure high ethical standards while conducting any research activity including human participants or laboratory animals.



Human Ethics Policy

Objectives

- Provide a general framework for ethical considerations of research involving human participants
- Develop a systematic approach to the ethical approval of all research applications that involve human participants
- Ensure a high level of ethical standards in all researches involving humans at the college of Dentistry, Tikrit University.

Ethical principles

- **Integrity:** Researchers must be honest and responsible in conducting their research.
- **Beneficence and Non-maleficence:** Researchers must minimize harm and maximize benefits from the conducted study.
- **Respect for Persons:** All research participants must be treated with dignity and respect.
- **Informed Consent:** Participants must voluntarily agree to participate in the study, fully understanding the procedures and any associated risks or benefits. They must have the option to withdraw from the study at any point.
- **Special Protection:** Additional consent must be obtained from the guardians of vulnerable populations (e.g., children and persons with disabilities).
- **Confidentiality and Data Protection:** Personal information must be safeguarded and protected. Identifiable data about the participants should not be disclosed to anyone other than the research team.



Animal Ethics Policy

Objectives

- Provide a general framework for ethical considerations of research involving animals that is in line with international legislations and law.
- Ensure a high level of ethical standards in all researches involving animals at the college of Dentistry, Tikrit University.

Ethical Principles

- **Integrity:** Researchers must be honest and responsible in conducting their research.
- **Replacement:** Researchers are advised to avoid or replace the use of animals if applicable and these can be by using simulation computer-based programs, *in vitro* methods or relative replacement.
- **Reduction:** Researchers must minimize the number of animals used for the study (e.g. improved experimental design, modern imaging techniques, sharing data, and resources).
- **Refinement:** Researchers must minimize harm and maximize benefits from the conducted study.
- **Rehabilitation:** Refers to after-care and/or rehabilitation of animals post-experimentation. All researchers using experimental animals have a moral responsibility to the animals after use.

The Process of gaining REC approval

- Ensure to write the research proposal in a scientific and clear way.
- The methods section must be clear and include all the intended steps to be followed in the research project



- The research project must be approved by the Scientific Committee of the researcher's affiliated department, and registered in the research annual plan of the department before applying to the ethics approval.
- Fill in the RECCOD form carefully and clearly.
- For Human studies:
 - Include a copy of the consent form that will be signed by all the participants before starting the project.
 - The consent form should include a clear statement that the participation in the project is voluntarily and the person has the right to withdraw from the study at any stage without any consequences, and without affecting the treatment plan that he/she might need in the teaching hospital.
 - An information sheet (In Arabic language) should be included. This sheet must clarify all the steps of the study in a lay language.
- The RECCOD will hold a meeting on the first Monday of each month to decide on the submitted applications.
- If amendment is required, it is recommended to resubmit the application with the amendment required within a month.
- If rejection is the decision; no resubmission is required.

Review categories

All applications will be reviewed carefully to ensure that the project is adhering to the highest ethical principles, particularly the Declaration of Helsinki, as well as Iraqi cultural values when conducting research involving human participants.

The international law and legislations will be followed in reviewing research projects using animals.



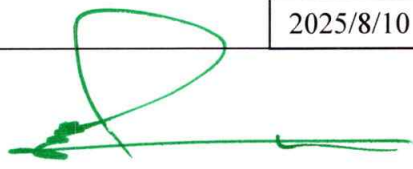


Approved studies

Once the RECCOD approved a study, it is recommended to start the study immediately. When the study is completed a notification of completion should be sent to the committee.

An electronic copy of the approved application will be archived in the RECCOD and the original application will be sent to the principal investigator.

If RECCOD found a breach in the research ethics, RECCOD approval will be withdrawn, a statement will be sent to the Dean of the College and a decision will be made to stop the project from being continued in the college campus.

	Signature and Date
This policy was drafted by Lec Dr. Hadeel Mohammed Abbood	 2025/8/10
Edited and reviewed by Professor Dr. Intesar Jasim Mohammed	 2025/8/10
Approved by the Dean of the College of Dentistry Assist. Prof. Dr. Mohammed Rhael Ali	 2025/8/10