

Research Ethics and Integrity

December 2021 | Communication (2)

THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ETHICS SYSTEM AT CUT

The University is in the process of developing and implementing an accredited human ethics committee. This includes:

- The establishment of an accredited human ethics committee.
- The integration of the implementation and compliance of the POPI Act in REIC functions.
- The standardisation of all ethical forms within the institution.
- The development of an online ethics application/approval system.

a) Clarivate Converis: Online Ethics Application / Approval System

CUT is in a consortium with TUT and CPUT under the SATN banner and procured a new online Research Information Management System (RIMS) called Clarivate Analytics: Converis. The system consists of a Publication Management Module, amongst others. However, it does not include a separate ethics online application and submission functionality. Therefore, the Consortium members decided to extend the Converis modules to include a Research Ethics application/approval system. The system will Go-LIVE in 2022.

b) Accredited Human Ethics Committee

As part of the project on the implementation of an integrated research ethics system, the Research Ethics and Integrity Committee (REIC) started with the process to establish a CUT Institutional Ethics Committee for research involving humans. A consultation session with the four Chairs of the Faculty Research Ethics and Integrity committees was conducted. An assessment tool questionnaire was used to gather information with regards to the 'as is' process for the existing CUT Faculty Committees. Which was followed by a feedback session highlighting the way forward. Thereafter a planning session was scheduled to outline the different processes, the people involved, and a proposal to decide on an applicable name for the institutional committee. It was decided that the "new" name of the institutional committee will be – General Research Ethics and Integrity Committee (G-REIC). The G-REIC will be formalised in 2022.

c) 2021 Training sessions and Workshops on Ethical Conduct in Research

The matters indicated in both a) and b) above were followed by a training session and workshop on ethical conduct in research and the role and importance of a national registered ethics committee.

The presentation covered the following aspects: What is the difference between a Scientific Review & an Ethics Review? What is Research Ethics? What is Research Integrity? Research Ethics Concepts and Principles; Research Ethics Committee Membership; Functions of the Research Ethics Committee; The Review Processes; Who needs ethical clearance? National & International Legislation that regulates Research; Ethical Codes and Statements; NHREC Registration; and POPIA implications for researchers and RECs.

The first workshop was successfully held on the 20 August 2021 and the second on 12 November 2021. The second workshop was part of the annual Doctoral Summer School and focused primarily on doctoral students.

d) Phasing in of the new General Research Ethics and Integrity Committee and Membership

Due to the introduction of the accredited Research Ethics and Integrity Committee, the current Research Ethics and Integrity Committee's Terms of Reference (ToR) will be updated, and membership will also be revisited and extended. The names of the new members will be made available once the nominations have been received from the Faculties.

2022 QUARTERLY MEETING DATES

The tentative meeting dates for 2022:

- 1st Meeting – 16 March 2022
- 2nd Meeting – 11 May 2022
- 3rd Meeting – 25 August 2022
- 4th Meeting – 3 November 2022

Time: 14:00 – 16:00

Via: TBC

GATE KEEPER APPROVAL

Permission to conduct research at the Central University of Technology

The Research Ethics and Integrity Policy Framework states the following:

Social science research often depends on gaining access to either people or data. That means you need the cooperation of the 'gatekeepers' to the data you want to access, or to the people you want to talk with – before you can get to the stage of asking permission from potential research participants themselves. In practice, that means you may need to secure permission or approval from different organisations or bodies before you can go ahead with your research.

The procedure for permission

According to the policy of Central University of Technology, Free State that all research conducted at the institution involving either personnel or students as respondents should be coordinated by the unit responsible for quality assurance, irrespective of whether the researcher is a member of the CUT community or an external researcher.

The purpose of this policy is to protect the rights of CUT staff and students and to safeguard the interests of CUT whenever researchers propose to:

1. use CUT staff and students as research subjects, or
2. use CUT staff or student records for research purposes.

Applications for permission to conduct research should contain the following:

- a) Survey purpose /research proposal.
- b) Ethical considerations including privacy legislation
- c) Questionnaire
- d) Sampling procedure
- e) Ethical clearance from an appropriate Ethics Committee

Complete application should be submitted to the office of Senior Director: Institutional Planning and Quality Enhancement (IPQE) Section. The CUT will consider applications and provide feedback based on the decision, including the conditions.

Contact Us

Prof. A Szubarga

Deputy Director: MIS

Institutional Planning and Quality Enhancement

E-mail: szubarga@cut.ac.za / bmahleko@cut.ac.za

Tel: +27 51 507 3008

TURNITIN SIMILARITY CHECK ACCOUNT

Supervisors and Researchers can apply for an account through an email to:

Dr Johan Badenhorst
jbaden@cut.ac.za
(051) 507 3223

CONTACT US

Ms. Cecilé Olivier
olivierc@cut.ac.za
(051) 507 4323