

WHAT IS THE MANDATE OF EACH REC?

Research Ethics Committees at SU have distinct mandates for the review of ethics considerations in research, & are constituted in terms of legislation and regulations, and in compliance with national and international ethics guidelines.

REC: ACU

is mandated to review research and teaching activities that involve the use of live, non-human vertebrates and higher invertebrates such as advanced members of the Cephalopoda and Decapoda, including eggs, foetuses and embryos (where development of an integrated nervous system is evident).

REC: BES

reviews research that is potentially hazardous to humans, animals, or the environment (such as research that may involve work related to recombinant DNA, pathogens and infectious agents, biological toxins or engineered nanomaterials).

HREC

(and sub-committee Undergraduate Research Ethics Committee (UREC)) reviews research protocols to ensure compliance in the protection of human participant safety, rights, and welfare in health research. UREC is responsible for ethics review of research undertaken by undergraduate and Honours students whilst HREC manages submissions from postgraduate students and staff.

REC: SBER

reviews research that involves human participation in social science, behavioural, economic and education disciplines.

RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEES (RECs)

Research Ethics Committees (RECs), under oversight of the Senate Research Ethics Committee include:

1

REC: ACU - RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE: ANIMAL CARE & USE

3

REC: SBER – RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE: SOCIAL SCIENCES, BEHAVIOURAL & EDUCATION RESEARCH

2

REC: BES - RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE: BIOLOGICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

4

HREC - HEALTH RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEES 1 & 2

DO I NEED ETHICS CLEARANCE FROM MORE THAN ONE COMMITTEE FOR MY STUDY?

Generally, research projects are submitted only to a single REC. However, there are instances where, due to the nature of the study, a study may be subject to different regulatory compliance frameworks, and thus need review by more than one REC.

Please feel free to discuss your project with a representative of the REC to determine whether approval by another REC might be required and to not delay the process of obtaining ethics approval.

WHO DO I CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION?

If you have any questions regarding which committee to submit your study to, please contact one of the following representatives who can answer your questions **before** you submit an application. The RECs each have different application forms that are designed to obtain the specific information that the relevant committee must review and report on, so your application cannot simply be rerouted

- **REC: ACU - Research Ethics Committee: Animal Care and Use**
Mr Winston Beukes | wabeukes@sun.ac.za
- **REC: BES - Research Ethics Committee: Biological & Environmental Safety**
Mr Winston Beukes | wabeukes@sun.ac.za
- **REC: SBER – Research Ethics Committee: Social Science, Behavioural & Education Research**
Ms Clarissa Graham | cgraham@sun.ac.za
- **HREC - Health Research Ethics Committees 1 & 2**
General enquiries: ethics@sun.ac.za

HREC1 Co-ordinator:

Ms Melody Shana
melodys@sun.ac.za

HREC2 Co-ordinator:

Ms Brightness Nxumalo
brightness@sun.ac.za

UREC

Contact Person: Dr Debbie Marais
debbiem@sun.ac.za