

Does my MSc or PhD student need a separate HREC approval?

Case-by-case consideration is required for each student project according to the logic below

Core principles:

1. SU's ethical obligations to study participants, staff, and students must not be compromised.
2. Redundant review of the same research question and methods needs to be avoided, especially if the parent study has approval.

Supervisor(s) and HoD indicate on Form A3 if the project proposal is:

- 1) encompassed by an already-approved parent project, 2) an additional (but related) research question or sub-question, objectives or methods within an approved parent project, or 3) a completely new research question.

If 1), written motivation provided by candidate and supervisor(s) included in the package submitted to the protocol review committee using a template [jointly formulated by the Doctoral Office and HREC] stating that research question, objectives, and methods mirror approved study

If 2), written description of changes to originally approved protocol included in the package submitted to the protocol review committee as a basis for a later protocol amendment to be submitted to HREC

If 3), new research question

After the oral protocol presentation, the HREC representative, together with content experts, choose one of the following options

Route C

New ethics submission required specific to student project (may be submitted as a linked study on the HREC submission portal)

Review committee disagrees with justification

Review committee endorses declaration

Route A

Supervisor submits amendment to HREC to have student added as a co-investigator on parent study, if not already the case

Route B

Supervisor submits a protocol amendment outlining MSc or PhD sub-study and adds student as co-investigator to the parent study

Next steps:

- 1) HREC representative who served on protocol review committee writes letter of recommendation (co-signed by the protocol review committee chair) addressed to the Ethics Committee Chair and attaches the supervisor's declaration, student CV, GCP certificate (if applicable), and student protocol after final approval from the committee.
- 2) Unless objections received from the Ethics Committee, a letter is issued that recognises that ethics approval is *already in place* and the student does not require new approvals. If the title of the student project does not match the parent project, this letter should verify that this linkage exists.
- 3) In the case of objections in 2), the protocol review HREC representative and committee chairperson engage with the Ethics Committee Chair until in agreement. Student supervisor may be requested to provide more information.