Creating a Minimal Risk Human Ethics Application

A Minimal Risk application is to be completed for an individual research project considered to be of minimal risk. If you are unsure whether your research fits within the guidelines for submission as minimal risk, you may select to complete the Minimal Risk option and related checklist to determine whether the project can be considered to be of minimal risk. A Minimal Risk application can be approved by a HEAG.

Creating a Minimal Risk Application

1. Log in to Themis using the UOM Research Self Service responsibility.
2. Select the Human Ethics Workbench function listed under the Ethics section. The Human Ethics Home Page - Researcher Worklist screen will display.
3. Click on the Create button in the Create New Documents section. The Project Type screen will display.

Define the Project Type

1. Tick the appropriate checkbox(s) to identify the type of project for which you are applying. Note: you may select multiple project types, if appropriate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Type</th>
<th>Additional information required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff Research Project</td>
<td>No additional information is required on this screen for this option.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Class</td>
<td>You must provide the name of the class in the field that displays below.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funded Consultancy</td>
<td>No additional information is required on this screen for this option.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervised Student Research Project</td>
<td>You must select the appropriate tertiary level/s (e.g.: Doctorate, PhD, Advanced Medical Science, etc.) using the checkboxes in the table that displays below.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>You must specify the nature of the application in the field that displays below.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Click on the Next button. The Research Checklist screen will display.

Complete the Research Checklist

The information entered in the checklist will determine: the application types available; additional questions to be completed online; and additional modules to be completed offline and attached to the application. Important: you must select at least one item from the Available Checklist Item list before progressing (choose None of the above if applicable). If you do not select any checklist item a warning message will display when you try and progress to the next screen.

1. Highlight the item you wish to add from the Available Checklist Items list (on the left). Note: the description for the selected item will display in the field under the table.
2. Click on the ⟵ arrow to move the highlighted item to the Selected Checklist Items list (on the right).
   To add all available items to the Selected Checklist Items list at once, click on the ⟵ arrow, or use the Move All hyper-link (remember to remove the None of the above item before progressing).
   Click on the ⟵ arrow to remove an item from the Selected Checklist Items list, if required.
3. Click on the Save as Draft button. While you may save the record at any stage of the application process, it is recommended that you save regularly to ensure you do not lose information if your session times out.
4. Click on the Next button. The Application Type screen will display.
Select the Application Type

1. Click on the appropriate radio button (Minimal Risk) to identify the application type. The following step in the process will vary depending on the application type selected here.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Type</th>
<th>Process</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimal Risk</td>
<td>You must complete further checklists before proceeding to the Application Message screen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard Project</td>
<td>You may proceed directly to the Application Message screen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>You must confirm that you are seeking approval for a broad program of research within which individual projects can be identified to be part of the program before progressing to the Application Message screen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Within a Program</td>
<td>You must specify the HEAG and the program (or add the program) and confirm that you have read the approved program application before proceeding to the Application Message screen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer of Ethics Clearance</td>
<td>You may proceed directly to the Application Message screen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration of External Ethics Clearance</td>
<td>You may proceed directly to the Application Message screen.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Click on the Next button.
   You will need to complete the Minimal Risk checklist before progressing through to the Application Message screen.

Complete the Minimal Risk Checklist

The Minimal Risk Checklist requires you to answer a number of questions regarding the project for which you are submitting the ethics application.

External Requirements - Is the research funded by an overseas agency that requires Ethics Committee review that involves community representation?

1. Click on the Yes or No radio button.
   Note: if you answer Yes it means the project is not eligible for submission as Minimal Risk and requires full review by the HESC. You will be returned to the Project Type screen and will need to choose an alternate project type (normally Standard Project).

2. Click on the Next button to progress to the next checklist question.

Risk Assessment Topics - Are any of the following topics to be covered in part or in whole?

3. Highlight the topic you wish to add from the Available Risk Assessment Topics list (on the left).
   Note: the description for the selected item will display in the field under the table.

4. Click on the ➡️ arrow to move the highlighted topic to the Selected Risk Assessment Topics list (on the right).
   Click on the ➡️ arrow to remove a topic from the list, if required.
   Important: you must select at least one item from the list before progressing (choose None of the above if applicable).

5. Click on the Next button to progress to the next checklist question.

Risk Assessment Procedures - Are any of the following procedures to be employed?

6. Highlight the item you wish to add from the Available Procedures list (on the left).
   Note: the description for the selected item will display in the field under the table.

7. Click on the ➡️ arrow to move the highlighted item to the Selected Procedures list (on the right).
   Click on the ➡️ arrow to remove an item from the list, if required.
   Important: you must select at least one item from the list before progressing (choose None of the above if applicable).

8. Click on the Next button to progress to the next checklist question.

Risks to Researcher - Identify any risks to the researcher?

9. Enter any identified risks to the researcher in the field.
   Note: if no risks have been identified, leave the field blank.

10. Click on the Next button to progress to the next checklist question.
Vulnerability Assessment - Does the research specifically target the following?

11 Highlight the item you wish to add from the Available Vulnerability Items list (on the left).

   **Note:** the description for the selected item will display in the field under the table.

12 Click on the move the highlighted item to the Selected Vulnerability Items list (on the right).

   Click on the move an item from the list, if required.

   **Important:** you must select at least one item from the list before progressing (choose *None of the above* if applicable).

13 Click on the **Next** button to progress to the next checklist question.

Overseas Research - Does the research involve any of the following?

14 Highlight the item you wish to add from the Available Overseas Research list (on the left).

   **Note:** the description for the selected item will display in the field under the table.

15 Click on the move the highlighted item to the Selected Overseas Research list (on the right).

   Click on the move an item from the list, if required.

   **Important:** you must select at least one item from the list before progressing (choose *None of the above* if applicable).

16 Click on the **Next** button.

   The Minimal Risk Review screen will display.

Review the Minimal Risk Application

The Minimal Risk Review screen will identify any validation errors (e.g.: checklist question unanswered). It will also identify whether or not the project is eligible for review as a minimal risk application - either as a Minimal Risk or Minimal Risk (Special Case) application.

*If validation errors are identified*

1 Click on the associated icon in the Go To Page column.

   This will link you directly to the appropriate page.

2 Update the information as required.

3 Use the drop down list at the bottom of the screen to return to the review page.

4 Repeat **steps 1 to 3** above for each of the validation errors.

5 Click on the **Next** button.

   The Application Message screen will display.

*If application ineligible to be submitted as a minimal risk*

1 Click on the **Next** button.

   This will return you to the Application Type screen.

2 Select an alternate application type and proceed with the application.

   For assistance in completing alternate applications refer to the appropriate reference card.
If risks have been identified

1. Select the radio button to confirm whether you wish to present a special case or proceed with a full review.
2. If you indicate a special case enter your supporting statement in the field below.
3. Click on the Next button.
   
   If you have indicated a special case the Application Message screen will display. 
   If you have indicated a full review you will return to the Application Type screen where you can select an alternate application type and proceed with the application.

If no validation errors are identified

1. Click on the Next button.
   The Application Message screen will display.

Application Message Screen

Once Themis collates and evaluates all the information you entered in the relevant checklists and project type screens, the Application Message screen will display a message of eligibility for the Human Ethics application project type.

1. Click on the Next button.
   The Project Details screen will display.
Enter the Project Details
The Project Details screen allows you to identify the responsible HEAG and enter information relating to your application (i.e.: project title, description and dates).

1 Enter the Project Details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Responsible HEAG</td>
<td>Select the appropriate HEAG from the drop-down list</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HESC</td>
<td>This field will default based on the HEAG selected above</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>Enter the title of your project</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brief description of project</td>
<td>Enter a brief description of the project</td>
<td>The description, no more than 100 words, should outline the broad aims and key questions of the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project From date</td>
<td>Use the drop-down list to select the month and year the project is expected to start</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project To date</td>
<td>Use the drop-down list to select the month and year the project is expected to end</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start date for data collection phase</td>
<td>Enter the proposed start date for the data collection phase of the project</td>
<td>Important: data collection may not commence until formal approval for the project has been granted and the date entered in this field should allow for a reasonable period of review of your application.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Click on the Next button.
The Participating Researcher screen will display.

Enter the Participating Researchers
The Participating Researcher screen allows you to record the researchers associated with your project, the role they will take in the research, as well as their contact, qualification and relevant training details.

1 Click on the Add Researcher button.
The Search Researchers screen will display.

2 Select the category of researcher for which to search from the drop-down list in the top field.
   - Select Staff if the researcher is a member of staff at the University of Melbourne.
   - Select Student if the researcher is a student at the University of Melbourne.
   - Select External if the researcher belongs to an external organisation or is retired.

3 Enter the surname of the researcher for which you are searching in the bottom field.

4 Click on the Search button.
A list of researchers matching your search criteria will display in the table below. Note: if no data is returned for an External researcher you may create an external person record (refer to Creating an External Researcher in Human Ethics reference card).

5 Click on the radio button to select the appropriate researcher then click on the Select button.
The Researcher Details screen will display.
Enter the Researcher Details
You must complete the information in the Researcher Details screen for each researcher you add to your ethics application.

6 Enter the researcher details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Field will default from the Themis record</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone Number</td>
<td>Field will default from the Themis record</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researcher Role</td>
<td>Select the appropriate role from the drop-down list</td>
<td>For further information on the available roles refer to the table on page 10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researcher Type</td>
<td>Field will default from the Themis record</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Field will default from the Themis record</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre (if applicable)</td>
<td>Use the Search and Select function to retrieve the appropriate Centre</td>
<td>This field should be left blank if the researcher does not belong to a Centre. Note: the list of available Centres only includes formal University Centres created under Regulation 6.1.R7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Details fields</td>
<td>Enter alternate contact details if required</td>
<td>Note: these contact details will be stored against the ethics application and will not be available on the person's Themis HR record.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR Validated Qualifications</td>
<td>This field will display any qualifications that a staff member has entered via Themis Self Service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Qualifications</td>
<td>Enter any additional qualifications not displayed above</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience and Skills relevant to the project</td>
<td>Enter any experience the researcher has that is relevant to the project</td>
<td>This field is mandatory. In particular, you should describe any experience the researcher or supporting staff has in conducting research of this type and in dealing with any emergencies, unexpected outcomes or contingencies that may arise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional training required</td>
<td>Enter any additional training required to carry out this research</td>
<td>This field is optional. Note: you should include details on how training identified will be provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics training already undertaken</td>
<td>Enter details of any ethics training the researcher has undertaken that will benefit this research</td>
<td>This field is mandatory for student researchers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7 Click on the Save and Continue button. The Participating Researcher screen will display, and the researcher you have added will display in the researcher table.

8 Follow steps 1 to 7 above to enter additional researchers if required. Note: for any project there must be one and only one Responsible Researcher named against the project.

9 Once you have added all the required researchers, click on the Next button to continue. The Additional Documentation Required screen will display.
**Access Additional Documentation**

The Additional Documentation Required screen will display any forms that you must complete and attach to your ethics application prior to submission. The forms are available on the Research Office web site but you will be able to download them via the hyperlink/s on this screen. Refer to the *Human Ethics - Table of Research Checklist Items* document for a complete list of documentation required for each application type.

1. **Important:** Click on the **Save As Draft** button before proceeding to download any additional documentation.
   A confirmation message will display advising that the application has been saved.

2. Click on the hyperlink for the form you wish to download.

   The link will access the relevant document from the Research Office web site and open it in a new browser window. In most cases the document will open at an instruction sheet, and you will need to scroll down from this page to view the body of the form.

3. Save the document to your PC/local server for later completion and attachment to Themis.

4. Close the browser window and reactivate your Themis session.

5. Complete steps 2 to 4 above for all required documents.

6. Once you have accessed all the required documents, click on the **Next** button to continue.

   The Attachments screen will display.

**Attach Required Documentation**

The Attachments screen allows you to attach any relevant documents to your Human Ethics application (including: the full application, consent forms, plain language statements and additional statements). This screen also allows you to log details of any documentation that can only be provided in hard copy.

**Add an electronic attachment**

1. Click on the **Add Attachment** button in the Attachment table.
   The Add Attachment screen will display.

2. Complete the attachment details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Add</td>
<td>Field will default to <em>Desktop File/Text/URL</em>, do not change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Enter a brief description of the attachment</td>
<td>This field is mandatory.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
   | Category      | Select the category of the attachment from the drop-down list | Categories available are: *Additional Module*, *Advertisement*, *Application*, *Consent Form*, *Debriefing Statement*, *Interview*, *Miscellaneous*, *Plain Language Statement*, and *Test*.  
   *Note:* you must include an attachment in the Application category before you will be able to submit the ethics application for review. |
   | Type          | Click on the radio button to select the appropriate attachment type | If selecting *File*: click on the *Browse* button to locate and select the document you wish to attach.  
   *If selecting URL*: type the full internet address you wish to reference.  
   *If selecting Text*: enter a simple text message in the field provided. If desired you may enter a name for the text attachment in the field below. |

If you wish to add multiple attachments, go to task # 3. Otherwise go to task #4.

3. Click on the **Add Another** button and repeat step 2 for each new attachment.

4. Once you have added all your attachments click on the **Apply** button.
   You will receive a confirmation that the attachment has been added but not saved.

5. Click on the **Save As Draft** button to save the attachment.
Register a document to be provided in hard copy only

1. Click on the Add Another Row button in the Supporting Documents table. The Add Attachment screen will display.
2. Complete the document details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attachment Type</td>
<td>Select the category of the attachment from the drop-down list</td>
<td>Categories available are: Additional Module, Advertisement, Application, Consent Form, Debriefing Statement, Evidence of Approval, Interview, Other, Plain Language Statement, and Questionnaire/Survey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Enter a brief description of the document you will be submitting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 for each document you wish to register.
4. Once you have registered all your attachments click on the Save As Draft button. You will receive a confirmation that the application has been saved.
5. Once you have attached all the required documents, click on the Next button to continue. The Application Review screen will display.

Review the Application

The Application Review screen will identify any validation errors or omissions (e.g.: either not including an Application type attachment or identifying multiple Application type attachments) in relation to your ethics application. If validation errors are identified

1. Click on the associated icon in the Go To Page column. This will link you directly to the appropriate page.
2. Update the information as required and click on the Save As Draft button to commit your changes.
3. Use the drop down list at the bottom of the screen to return to the review page.
4. Repeat steps 1 to 3 above for each of the validation errors.
5. Click on the Next button. The Submission screen will display.

Submit the Application

Once you have reviewed your application and corrected any validation errors, you may submit your application for review by the nominated HEAG.

1. Read the submission confirmation statement.
2. Tick the checkbox to the right of the statement. You will be unable to submit the application until you tick this box (i.e.: the Submit Application button will not be active).
   **Important:** if someone other than the responsible researcher submits the application, additional checkboxes will display and must be answered before you will be able to submit the application.
3. Click on the Submit Application button. A Confirmation of Submission screen will display.

**Note:** all researchers named on the application will receive an email to confirm the application has been submitted for review and the application will display in the Current Applications section of the Human Ethics Worklist, with a status of Submitted. Any of the named researchers (with access to Themis) will be able to view the application and track its status via their Worklist.
Print the Application

Once you have submitted your application in Themis, you will need to print a copy of the application summary report and submit it with any the required number of copies of your supporting documentation to the nominated HEAG. Note: for detailed instructions refer to the Printing a Human Ethics application and related attachments reference card.

1. Log in to Themis using your UOM Research Self Service responsibility.

2. Select the Human Ethics Workbench function listed under the Ethics section.
   The Human Ethics Workbench screen will display.

3. Scroll to the Current Application section of your workbench and click on the View icon for the appropriate record.

4. In the Ethics Record Overview screen, locate the appropriate application version and click on the View icon.

5. Click on the Printable Summary Report hyperlink in the Project Details menu on the top left of the screen.

6. Click on the Print icon located on the PDF document pane.
   The location of the PDF document pane (either top or bottom of screen) will depend on your version of Acrobat.
7 Ensure the application is signed by all responsible researchers.

8 Submit the paper copies of your application and any attachments to the HEAG Administrator.

The paper copy you submit to the HEAG Administrator must contain the following documents:

- the application summary (data entered directly into Themis)
- the completed application form (the document electronically attached via Themis)
- other attachments (either electronically attached via Themis or being provided in hard copy only - including plain language statements, consent forms, etc)

### Definition of Researcher Roles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Researcher Role</th>
<th>Researcher Role Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Responsible Researcher</td>
<td>For any project there must be a Responsible Researcher named against the project. <strong>Note:</strong> there may only be one person with this role per application and only a member of staff may be named. In the case of Student Projects, please note the Responsible Researcher would be the student supervisor (even in the case of PhD projects). Only the person named as Responsible Researcher, and the creator, will have access to update an application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Researcher</td>
<td>There can be multiple student researchers associated with a project. It is recognised that for many projects, the Student Researcher is the person who is actually conducting the research and may be submitting the application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-researcher</td>
<td>There can be multiple Co-researchers associated with a project. These would normally be persons in the role of co-supervisor of a student project, or other contributing researchers (staff or external).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associated Personnel</td>
<td>There can be multiple associated personnel with a project. This role would only be assigned to a person who is not considered a researcher on the project.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>