



NUSC Department Ethics Review Committee (DERC)

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Department Ethics Review

NUS College (NUSC) Department Ethics Review Committee (DERC) review students' projects that qualify for IRB review exemption.

The objectives of the DERC are:

1. to assess the level of risk to human subjects in research projects of the Department's academic staff members and students, and
2. to make recommendations on the appropriate type of ethics review for each research project

Exemption is given to the research projects that: **Department Ethics Review**

Fall into one or more of the IRB exemption categories ([view this document for details of the categories](#))

1. Are of minimal risk;
2. Does not involve a vulnerable population;
3. Does not touch on sensitive topics; and
4. Does not involve deception/withholding of study's stated aims and objectives from research participants.

Before obtaining the DERC approval, students should not start the data collection process. Students who violate this rule will be penalised. The DERC's request for amendments to the research protocol, if any, should be followed and reflected in the revised application.

Important Notice:

With effect from AY2025/2026, students and researchers applying for the Department Ethic Review Committee (DERC), may refer to the [Applicant](#) guide on how to navigate DREAMS. Please email nusc.ethics@nus.edu.sg if you have any questions.

Please direct all requests to nusc.ethics@nus.edu.sg.