

## GRSC6029/6030/6031/6032/6033 Research Ethics for Graduate Students

### **Aim:**

The aim of this course is to reinforce the importance that the University of Hong Kong places on the preservation of the values and principles of research integrity in all research conducted at the university.

### **Content:**

The value and benefits of research are vitally dependent on the integrity of the research. To ensure the trustworthiness of research, researchers should abide by principles of honesty, accountability, professional courtesy and fairness, and good stewardship in the conduct and publication of their work.

In this course, students will learn essential vocabulary, principles, and practices conducive to the promotion of research integrity in general and in their relevant disciplines. Students can expect to encounter terminology, texts, and tenets that relate to good conduct in the teaching and research professions.

Approaches to these topics will vary according to the research discipline. Five Research Ethics courses (GRSC6029/6030/6031/6032/6033) are offered for graduate students to select according to the Faculties they belong.

### **Organization:**

This course comprises twelve hours (six 2-hour classes). The class will normally include a brief lecture and an in-class, case-based discussion.

#### GRSC6029 Research Ethics for Graduate Students (Faculties of Business & Economics, Education, Law and Social Sciences)

This course covers the international standards associated with the conduct of human-subject research, with a particular focus on survey, ethnographic, archival, and qualitative research. Topics also covered include issues of authorship, mentoring, and professional ethics for academics in the university.

#### GRSC6030 Research Ethics for Graduate Students (Faculties of Arts and Architecture)

This course covers major texts, tenets, and topics pertinent to conducting ethical research in the creative academic disciplines, such as arts, humanities and architectures.

#### GRSC6031 Research Ethics for Graduate Students (Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Dentistry)

This course covers the international standards of ethical research as applied to the conduct of clinical research (i.e., pharmaceutical and medical device trials, epidemiological studies, and the concepts of good clinical practice and clinical equipoise).

#### GRSC6032 Research Ethics for Graduate Students (Faculty of Engineering)

This course covers topics such as international standards for good engineering practice, laboratory safety, human subjects research protections, conflicts of interest and good scientific conduct. Students of education interested in issues of engineering and technology education may also find this course useful.

### GRSC6033 Research Ethics for Graduate Students (Faculty of Science)

This course covers the international standards of ethical research as applied to the conduct of basic science research in a laboratory setting. This course reviews the standards of good laboratory practice and laboratory safety from the perspective of an ethical commitment. This course also reviews the standards of scientific research misconduct in the laboratory setting.

#### Remarks:

*Students wishing to enroll in the Research Ethics course not intended for their home Faculties must seek approval from their supervisors and the Graduate School. Change of course though is not advisable.*

#### **Enrollment:**

This course is compulsory for all MPhil and 4-year PhD students registered in or after September 2009. 3-year PhD students registered in September 2011 and thereafter are also required to take the course IF they have not yet completed equivalent training in previous research degree programmes. Professional doctorate students (DBA, DNurs, DPA, EdD, PsyD) registered in or after September 2014 are required to take this course. There is no assumption that students will be familiar with ethical concepts or standards of ethical research conduct prior to their enrollment.

#### **Assessment:**

Students must complete the following to pass the course:

- 1) web-based learning modules (CITI at the University of Miami) - an info sheet is attached for details; and
- 2) a written assignment of about 500 words.

#### **Attendance:**

Students are expected to attend all classes. Students who missed one class or more are required to do make-up work assigned by the teacher.

#### **Learning outcomes:**

On completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Explain the values and conventions of research integrity during data collection appropriate to their discipline;
- Apply principles of responsible conduct to research project design;
- Critically evaluate their own and others' research practices in terms of potential risks and benefits;
- Demonstrate the features of ethical authorship and publication practice in their own writing;
- Differentiate between conflicts of interest and conflicts of commitment;
- Design independent plans for ethical use, sharing, storage and security of research material and data; and
- Synthesize current principles and practices of ethical research in their disciplines to fit related emerging areas and innovations.

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG  
GRADUATE SCHOOL

**Research Ethics for Graduate Students (GRSC6029/6030/6031/6032/6033)**  
**Web-based Learning Modules for Responsible Conduct of Research**

As part of the student learning assessment for the Research Ethics course, students are required to pass the web-based learning modules for Responsible Conduct of Research in the CITI Program (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative at the University of Miami).

(2) **The following information is provided to help students to get registered on the CITI program. Students must enroll in one of the CITI courses of Responsible Conduct of Research that is most relevant to their research discipline. They should complete and pass all required learning modules online before their last class of GRSC6029/6030/6031/6032/6033, and submit the completion report issued by CITI to the course teacher for records of assessment.**

(3) **All new users of CITI must, first of all, register as a new learner and create a learner account.** Below are the step-by-step instructions for registration (*source: CITI website*):

Go to [www.citiprogram.org](http://www.citiprogram.org) and click on the "**Register**" button located in the blue log-in box to the right of the homepage under "**Create an account**".

The next steps are numbered 1-7. These steps will collect information to register your account and place you in the correct course based on your institutional settings.

**Step 1** Put "**The University of Hong Kong**" as your affiliated organization.

**Step 2** Fill in your personal information. Remember to enter your name here **as you would like it to appear on your completion report** received at the end of the course. Ensure you use an email address that you can access so you can complete the registration process by verifying the email.

While not required, CITI does encourage entering a secondary email address. It will assist in the recovery of your account if you forget your username or password and no longer have access to your primary email address.

**Step 3** Create your username and password according to the on-screen instructions.

**Step 4** Fill in your demographic information. Use the blue information question marks for more information on specific categories.

**Step 5** Professionals seeking credit for CITI Program courses can make their selection for Continuing Education credits. This step is where you can also let CITI know your interest in participating in research surveys at a later date.

**Step 6** This step is institutional specific. Each institution determines the fields listed on this page and what information is required or optional.

**Step 7** This step enrolls you in CITI Program courses. The questions here are set up based on the institutional specific courses. You should select (in Question 1) **one of the following courses** in the Responsible Conduct of Research that is most relevant to your research discipline:

- **Responsible Conduct of Research for Clinical Investigators**
- **Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research Course**
- **Physical Science/Non-clinical Responsible Conduct of Research**
- **Humanities Responsible Conduct of Research Course**
- **Responsible Conduct of Research for Engineers and Architects**

You may also select in Question 2 “Good Clinical Practice” (GCP) and in Question 3 “Health Information Privacy and Security” (HIPS). They are optional.

Click on “**Complete Registration**” and then “**Finalize Registration**” to finish your registration for learner account. If you need to change your course registration, click on “**Add a Course or Update Learner Group**”.

To begin working on the course, click on “**The University of Hong Kong Courses**” and then the course name.

To pass the course selected, you must complete all modules required AND achieve an average score of **at least 80% on all quizzes**. On your successful completion of the course, please print your **completion report** and submit it to the course teacher.

(4) The course teacher for GRSC6029/6030/6031/6032/6033 should inform students in the very beginning of the course of when and how they should submit the completion report for assessment records.

(5) If students have any problems relating to taking the CITI learning modules, they should discuss with the teacher as soon as the course starts.

(6) Passing the CITI learning modules is only part of the course requirements for GRSC6029/6030/6031/6032/6033. To complete the course successfully, students must also fulfill the rest of the assessment requirements as specified in the course syllabus.

Prepared by Graduate School