

International Research

International research projects must be approved by the local equivalent of an IRB before they are presented to the UCAIHS. If you plan to conduct your research at a site located outside of the United States, you should first obtain approval for your research from a local IRB or Research Ethics Board (REB) before submitting your application to the UCAIHS. Where there is no equivalent board or group, investigators must rely on local experts or community leaders to provide approval. The UCAIHS requires written documentation of this "local context approval" before granting NYU approval.

While we cannot impose our standards for written documentation on other cultures, we do not relax our standards for ethical conduct of research or for a meaningful consent process. Special attention should be given to local customs and to local cultural and religious norms in drafting written consent documents or proposing alternative consent formats.

In some instances it may be appropriate for the IRB to waive some or all requirements for written consent. Research proposals for which this may be reasonable should include explanations of cultural norms or conditions requiring such a waiver, e.g., societies where no written language is used, societies where signatures represent the surrender of spirit or soul to the researcher, or where a signed consent could place the subject at risk for retribution.

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact the UCAIHS staff at ask.humansubjects@nyu.edu.