Important Research Ethics Information for USRA Students

1. Find the online research ethics application system for MREB and guidance on using the system at [https://research.mcmaster.ca/ethics/macrem/](https://research.mcmaster.ca/ethics/macrem/). Samples and templates for supporting documents (e.g. letter of information) are available at [https://macrem.mcmaster.ca/Personalisation/DisplayPage/50](https://macrem.mcmaster.ca/Personalisation/DisplayPage/50).

2. Most projects outside of the Faculty of Health Science submit to MREB, but if your project contains invasive procedures (e.g. blood draw) or your supervisor is in FHS, you may need to apply to HiREB. Refer to the guidance on determining the correct REB for your submission at [https://research.mcmaster.ca/ethics/hireb-or-mreb/](https://research.mcmaster.ca/ethics/hireb-or-mreb/).

3. The University still requires an additional COVID precautions approval process, prior to REB review, for projects with in-person interaction with participants. See the latest message from the Vice-President, Research on the requirements. Also refer to the [MREB COVID-19 FAQ](https://research.mcmaster.ca/ethics/macrem/). With McMaster lifting some restrictions in the next couple of months, this requirement could change, but if you are planning in-person procedures and want to submit your ethics application before May, you will likely have to obtain this additional University approval first. Please factor this into your timeline.

4. If you would like an orientation to the ethics review process provided by the MREB Secretariat, then please email [caricnt@mcmaster.ca](mailto:caricnt@mcmaster.ca) asap and if there is enough interest we will schedule a session or two in late March or early April. If there is not enough interest, then there is still the option to have a consultation about your project with one of the research ethics advisors.

5. Research ethics review can take up to 4 weeks from the time you submit a complete application to when you receive feedback from the MREB Chair, and then a few more days for making revisions (if necessary) and having the Chair provide clearance. You are strongly encouraged to submit your ethics application as soon as possible and respond to feedback promptly to allow enough time for your recruitment, data collection and analysis this summer.

6. Students that are doing a part of their supervisor’s research for their USRA project (more common in PNB and Kinesiology) may still need to have their supervisor submit a For Information Only form or an Amendment form to the approved application to account for the student research. Contact the ethics office to determine if this is necessary for your project ([ethicsoffice@mcmaster.ca](mailto:ethicsoffice@mcmaster.ca)).

7. Contact the Ethics Office if you have any questions about the research ethics review process, including if you are unsure whether or not your project requires research ethics review ([ethicsoffice@mcmaster.ca](mailto:ethicsoffice@mcmaster.ca)).

[Click here for MREB FAQs on Ethics Review during COVID-19](https://research.mcmaster.ca/ethics/macrem/FAQs)