

TO: **Academic Staff**
Research Support Officers
Undergraduate and postgraduate students

SUBJECT: **Research ethics**

DATE: ***Updated on 30th October 2019***

As you may already be aware, Senate has issued new procedures concerning research ethics, which our department will need to follow. Please take note of the procedures, while the following should also help:

- Details of the new research ethics procedures are available at <https://www.um.edu.mt/urec> while this same link will also be indicated on our departmental web page under 'Important notices and forms'.
- A PowerPoint presentation concerning the new research ethics procedures will be available for download via a link on our departmental web page under 'Important notices and forms'.
- If a researcher filling in the self-assessment form (Form A) replies that their research involves vertebrates and/or cephalopods, they are presently directed to fill in a detailed assessment form (Form B). However the present Form B is designed for research involving humans, not animals. The University Research Ethics Committee (UREC) is in the process of drafting an interim form asking for basic information on the research, to be filled in by animal researchers. This will be replaced in due course by a version that considers all aspects of animal research in relation to local and EU legislation. The UREC will advise University staff and students when the interim form has been uploaded. In the meantime please **do not fill in Form B for animals but wait until the interim form is ready**.
- Note that the forms (for now only Form A) you will be completing will first be passed on to the Faculty Research Ethics Committee (FREC). The Department of Biology is in the process of identifying its representative on the FREC (Faculty of Science).
- Please follow the procedures for **any ongoing** research project (including undergraduate and postgraduate dissertations, externally (e.g. EU) and internally (e.g. UoM) funded research projects. The relative form should be submitted to the chairperson of the FREC (Faculty of Science); currently, this is Prof Irene Sciriha Aquilina (email: irene.sciriha-aquilina@um.edu.mt).

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