ETHICAL REVIEW OF UNDERGRADUATE AND TAUGHT POST-GRADUATE RESEARCH

Currently, there is no explicit requirement on academic institutions to create Research Ethics Committees to review the research of their staff and students. Within NUI Galway there is a formally constituted Research Ethics Committee (REC), supported by the Research Office, which includes within its remit all research conducted by members of staff and PhD students.

The REC recognises that in some Schools and Disciplines, undergraduate and taught post-graduate students engage in research with human participants and that there are associated ethical responsibilities. However the REC, as currently constituted, does not have the capacity to ensure full ethical review and monitoring of research undertaken by undergraduates and taught post-graduates.

However, School Research Ethics Committees (SRECs) complement the work of the University Research Ethics Committee (REC). Whereas the REC oversees all ethical matters arising from research undertaken by staff and PhD students, the SREC oversees ethical approval for research animal or human participants arising from academic programmes other than doctoral theses and not otherwise referred to the REC.

The following Colleges / Schools have ethics committees that can review undergraduate research:

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES:
Dr Louise Campbell (Chair) x3699

COLLEGE OF ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCES, AND CELTIC STUDIES:
- School of Psychology – Nuala Donohue (School Administrator) x3678
- School of Political Science and Sociology - Nuala Donohue (School Administrator) x3678
- School of Education – Caroline Casey (School Administrator); x5985; Dr Elaine Keane (Chair)