

REB Guideline: Multi-Jurisdictional Research

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The Tri-Council Policy Statement on Multi-Jurisdictional Research states that "*institutions are accountable for research conducted under their auspices, irrespective of the location where it takes place.*"

"Research involving humans that may require the involvement of multiple institutions and/or multiple REBs includes, but is not limited to, the following situations:

- (a) a research project conducted by a team of researchers affiliated with different institutions;*
- (b) several research projects independently conducted by researchers affiliated with different institutions, with data combined at some point to form one overall research project;*
- (c) a research project conducted by a researcher affiliated with one institution, but that involves collecting data or recruiting participants at different institutions;*
- (d) a research project conducted by a researcher who has multiple institutional affiliations (e.g., two universities, a university and a college, or a university and a hospital. See Application of Article 6.1);*
- (e) a research project conducted by a researcher at one institution that requires the limited collaboration of individuals affiliated with different institutions or organizations (e.g., statisticians, lab or X-ray technicians, social workers and school teachers); or*
- (f) a research project that researcher(s) working under the auspices of a Canadian research institution conduct in another province, territory or country." (TCPS2 2014, Chapter 8).*

Therefore, **any research** that will be conducted by or associated with a member of the Brock University community, including but not limited to, faculty members, graduate students, undergraduate students, adjunct professors, professor emeriti, or staff that will in any way make reference to their affiliation with Brock University or use the resources (financial, physical, or human) of Brock University, will require clearance from the Brock University REB, regardless of the members' contribution or the location of the research site. Where previous clearance from another institution has already been obtained, the project will normally undergo an expedited review by the Brock University REB.

Brock's REBs cannot accept another institution's review as sufficient clearance for research conducted by a Brock University faculty, students, or staff unless Brock has entered into a formal agreement with the other institution according to the terms in [TCPS article 8.1](#).

In the absence of a formal agreement, the following are specific guidelines according to TCPS Chapter 8.

1. As collaborative research between faculty members at different institutions and between faculty members and community partners becomes more common, there is a desire that researchers not be hindered unnecessarily in their research activities by a multiplicity of administrative procedures associated with multiple REB reviews. However, each institution and institutional REB has an

obligation to ensure that any research activity under their jurisdiction or auspices is appropriately reviewed and that the most rigorous standards for the protection of research participants are upheld. The *Tri-Council Policy Statement* (TCPS) and Brock's approved policies and procedures are viewed as the minimal standard for Brock faculty members, students, and staff members who are engaged in research involving human subjects.

2. Principles of institutional accountability require each local REB to be responsible for the ethical acceptability of research undertaken within its institution. However, in multi-jurisdictional research, when several REBs consider the same proposal from the perspective of their respective institutions, they may reach different conclusions on one or more aspects of the proposed research. To facilitate the coordination of ethics review, when submitting a proposal for multi-jurisdictional research, the researcher may wish to distinguish between core elements of the research - that cannot be altered without invalidating the pooling of data from the participating institutions - and those elements that can be altered to comply with local requirements without invalidating the research project. REBs also may wish to coordinate their reviews of multi-jurisdictional projects and to communicate any concerns they may have to other REBs reviewing the same project. Researchers can facilitate the needed communication by providing contact information or other details about any other institutional REBs that will consider the project.

Principal Investigator from Brock University

3. When the Brock researcher is the Principal Investigator of the collaborative research project or the principal investigator of a sub-project, the Brock REB shall be considered the primary REB and Brock's policies and procedures apply.
4. According to TCPS article 8.3(b), the application and any subsequent changes must secure research ethics clearance from the primary REB (i.e., Brock University) and all relevant REBs or other responsible review body or bodies, if any. Evidence of clearance from other REBs or review bodies must be provided to the Brock University REB prior to commencing research.

Principal Investigator from Another Institution

5. When a faculty member, staff member, or student of Brock University is part of a collaborative research project involving human subjects, he or she must submit an application for ethics review to the Brock REB. However, when the Principal Investigator of the collaborative research project or sub-project holds a primary appointment at another institution with a duly constituted and/or certified REB, the Brock researcher may request an expedited review of the application for ethics clearance based upon the following:
 - a. Completion of the Brock REB application for ethics clearance or a similar application as submitted to the other duly constituted REB;
 - b. Submission of consent documents and other research materials as required and appropriate to complete the review;
 - c. Submission of the ethics clearance certificate or approval letter from the other institution's REB; and
 - d. Acknowledgement from the other duly constituted REB that the Brock researcher is a member of the research team (e.g., named on application form, consent documents, and ethics clearance certificate).