

Work that may be exempt from research ethics review at Griffith University



V1.2 | 11/04/2024

The [2023 National Statement](#) includes broader provisions for Human Research Ethics Committees to exempt certain activities.

The following work by Griffith University researchers may be exempt from research ethics review **if they involve no greater than low risk (ie discomfort)**:

We encourage all researchers who consider that they may qualify for an exemption to send a short project summary to research-ethics@griffith.edu.au for confirmation. The factors that may impact upon exemption are listed below.

Type Of Project

A. EVALUATIVE WORK (INCLUDING CONTRACT RESEARCH)

Considerations: 1 | 2 | 6 | 12

B. WORK WITH EXISTING DATA OR DOCUMENTS

Considerations: 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 12

C. WORK WITH DATA DERIVED FROM THE INTERNET

Considerations: 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15

D. THE OUTPUT BE CREATIVE (E.G. PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION, THEATRICAL OR MUSIC PERFORMANCE, NOVEL) OR JOURNALISTIC (E.G. A NEWS STORY OR A DOCUMENTARY)?

Considerations: 6 | 7 | 8 | 12

E. WORK WITH EXISTING HUMAN BIOSPECIMENS OR CELL LINES

Considerations: 9 | 10 | 11 | 13

F. SURVEY AND OBSERVATION OF PUBLIC BEHAVIOUR

Considerations: 6 | 12

Considerations

1. If not an evaluation of Griffith University, has the organisation approved the evaluation. If it is at Griffith has the HOE given permission for the evaluation.
2. Is it predictable there will be some form of research outputs from the work (e.g. journal article or a conference presentation).
3. Permission required for access.
4. Accessed in a form without personal identifiers.
5. Already in the public domain.
6. Published in a form without personal identifiers or consent retained for the use of personal identifiers.
7. Consent should be obtained.
8. The work should not include interviews, focus groups or surveys.
9. Prospective collection always requires research ethics review.
10. Sourced from a previous research project where consent was obtained for reuse.
11. If not from a previous project, purchased from a commercial biobank.
12. Work involves no more than a low risk of harm (discomfort).
13. Access and research use consistent with the terms and conditions of the website/service.
14. Is the author/subject vulnerable?
15. Is the information sensitive?

Research activities should not commence until you receive confirmation from the Office for Research that the activity is exempt from ethics review.

[Booklet 17 of the Griffith University Research Ethics Manual \(GUREM\)](#) provides more detailed guidance on which activities do and do not require ethical review at Griffith, based on the 2023 National Statement. It also discusses whether exempt research can be used for a research output.