



جامعة نِزْوَى
University of Nizwa

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UoN ANIMAL RESEARCH ETHICS POLICY

Research Involving Animals

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UoN Animal Research Ethics Policy

Proposed by: Vice-Chancellor for Graduate Studies, Research and External Relations (VCGSRER)
Office

Approved by: Professor Ahmed bin Khalfan Al Rawahi, The University Chancellor

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I. INTRODUCTION

University of Nizwa (UoN) is committed to maintaining the highest ethical standards while conducting research using animals, and conforming with international law and legislation in this regard. All research proposals that involve animals are reviewed by the Animal Research Ethics Committee (AREC) prior to the commencement of any research activities.

The AREC shall report to the Vice-Chancellor for Graduate Studies, Research and External Relations (VCGSRER). The Committee's function is to review research proposals to ensure that research and teaching activities on animals are performed with the highest ethical standards.

II. OBJECTIVE

This policy aims to:

- 1- Provide a general framework for ethical considerations in research involving animal subjects
- 2- Develop a systematic approach to the ethical approval for all research applications that involve animal subjects
- 3- Ensure ethical practices in all researches involving animals at UoN.

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all researchers and students at the University comply with the code of ethical conduct when handling animals for teaching and research purposes.

IV. SCOPE

This policy applies to all staff, undergraduate and graduate students, full-time and part-time researchers and post-doctorates engaging in animal research at the University of Nizwa campus.

DEFINITIONS

The below definitions are listed alphabetically.

Term	Definition
Animal	Animal refers to all vertebrate animals including the amphibians and invertebrates such as octopus, squid, crab, crayfish, cephalopods, and lobster. It also includes animals at earlier stages of development such as embryonic, fetal or larval development.
Animal users	Refers to individuals who use animals in research or teaching activities.
Animal wellbeing	Refers to the positive physiological and psychological state of an animal in coping with the conditions in which it is kept.
AREC	Stands for Animal Research Ethics Committee
Post-doctoral	A person holding a PhD degree and involved in a research project as a

Researcher Fellow	full-time or part-time.
Principal Investigator (PI)	The researcher responsible for leading the Research Project and Project Team.
Researcher	Permanent staff of UoN, staff visiting the UoN from other local/international institutions and an undergraduate and graduate student at the University.

VI. RELATED POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

- UoN Research Policy and Regulations
- UoN Human Research Ethics policy
- UoN Operational Guidelines for Animal Ethics Committee.

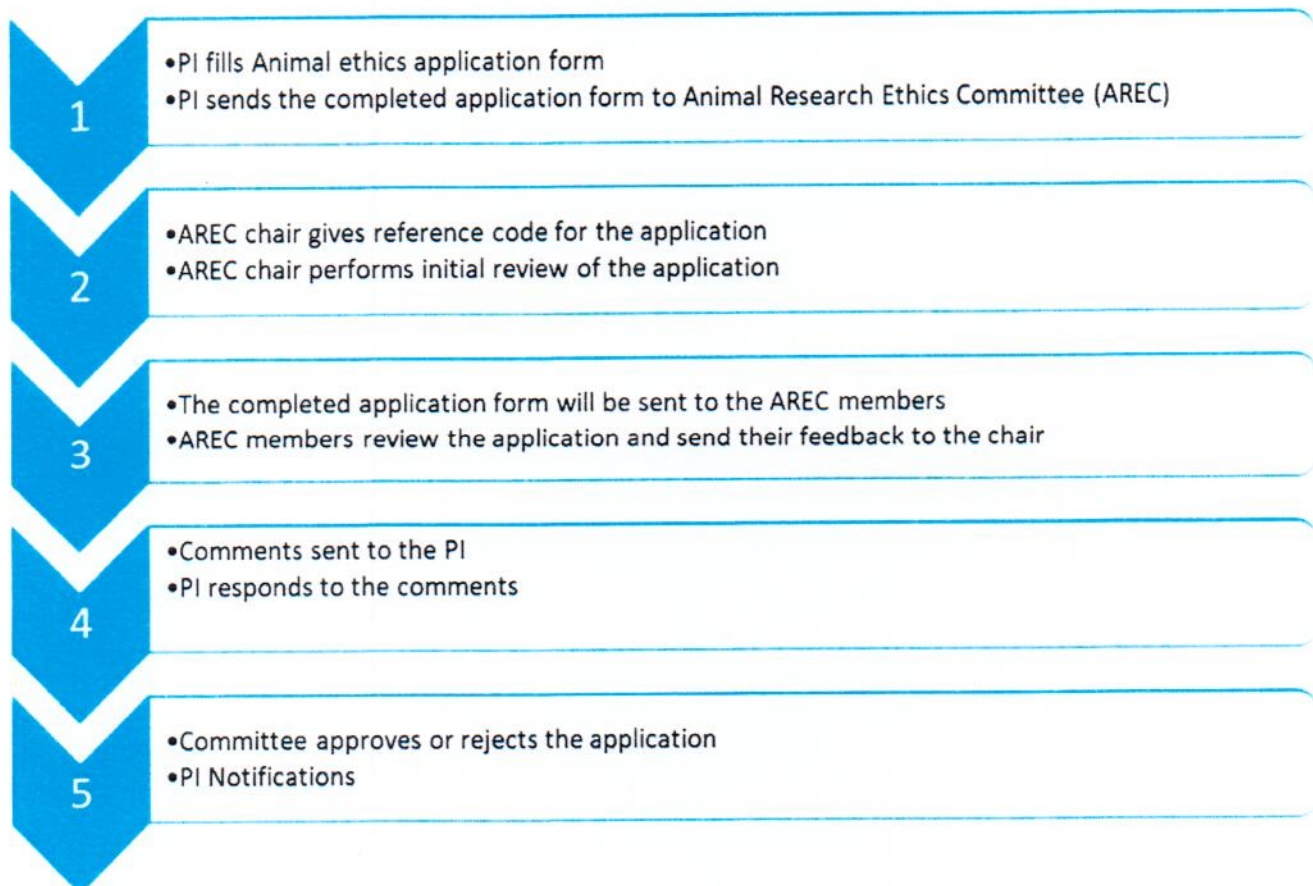
VII. POLICY STATEMENTS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The use of animals in research and teaching activities should be justifiable and restricted to cases in which there are good reasons to believe that the outcomes of the research or the results of the teaching will improve human/animal health, or ecosystems and lead to a better understanding and achievement of educational objectives.
2. Researchers and animal users should avoid any procedure or process that causes unnecessary pain and stress to the animal(s).
3. Animals shall be used only if there are no other alternatives.
4. Steps should be taken to ensure optimal physical and behavioral health of the animals.
5. When the animals are ill/ injured, they should receive treatment that alleviates any unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress. Uncurable animals should be appropriately euthanized. Standard disposal methods should be adopted for animals that are sacrificed for research.
6. The number of animals used in research and teaching should be kept as minimal as possible.
7. The harm caused to the animals should be minimized and the benefits are to be maximized.
8. Principal investigators should include the following in their research proposal - the setup of the experiment, the techniques and the materials to be used, and the care and management of the animal(s), and they shall be evaluated by the AREC.
9. The use of wild animals must not violate the laws or policies that are adopted in the Sultanate of Oman for wildlife conservation.
10. Wild animals should be used only in cases of extreme necessity and with the approval of appropriate national governing bodies.

11. The Researcher/Animal User must ensure safe transportation of animals. Stress, pain and suffering of transported animal should be avoided.
12. Animal facilities at UoN should be established in accordance with international standards.
13. All animal facilities must have a quality management plan that will be inspected by AREC. The AREC or its appointed representative shall have the right at any time to inspect the facilities in which the animals are housed.
14. Animal research activities should be performed only after a written ethical approval granted by the AREC.
15. For teaching activities, the course instructors are responsible for maintaining proper ethical standards whilst dealing with animals.
16. Any instance of ethical misconduct should be reported by the staff or students to the AREC.

VIII. PROCEDURE/PROCESS

Procedure for obtaining ethical approval for research/teaching purposes



IX. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Investigators responsibilities:

Research teams are responsible for the ethical conduct of their research.

The Principle Investigator is responsible for:

- 1- Obtaining ethical approval from the AREC prior to commencement of research activities involving animal subjects
- 2- Abiding by the experimental protocol approved by the AREC
- 3- Ensuring all animal users are well-trained and experienced with respect to the wellbeing of animals used in research or teaching
- 4- Reporting any changes in the protocol and any unexpected adverse impact on the animal(s) wellbeing to the AREC.

AREC responsibilities

The primary role of the AREC is to ensure that all research and teaching activities involving animals are conducted in compliance with the ethical principles, and values outlined in this policy, besides the international guidelines and declarations on animal ethics that are effectuated by the government of Oman.

1. AREC should inspect all animal facilities at UoN, review project reports, and perform random audits of approved projects.
2. The committee is responsible for drafting and deploying the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for AREC. These SOPs should enunciate the roles and responsibilities of the committee.
3. The committee members should act independently, free from bias and undue influence from the researcher(s) and from any personal or financial interests.
4. The chairman of the AREC should request all the members to declare any conflict of interest they may have in relation to an application prior to the AREC meeting.
5. Any AREC member involvement as investigator or co-investigator is considered as conflict of interest and is requested to withdraw from the meeting.

The AREC committee members are responsible for:

1. Reviewing and approving research projects involving animal subjects
2. Evaluating any updates or issues that may arise after commencement of the research activities
3. Writing, reviewing and updating SOPs
4. Doing any other tasks assigned by the VCGSRER, related to ethics
5. Monitoring of implementation of ethical principles during research activities.

Non- compliance:

- Animal use without the approval of AREC shall be considered as non-compliance.
- Animal use that contravenes this Policy shall be considered as non-compliance.
- Non-compliance shall be considered as research misconduct and shall be dealt with according to the UoN regulations on misconduct.

X. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Animal Ethics Committee Application Form (UoN/GSRER-DoR-POL-005/FORM-001/V1/2020)

XI. HISTORICAL RECORDS

- This Policy was drafted by the Office of VCGSRER
- It was edited by Dr. Mohamed Ismail, Pro-VCAA
- It was approved by the UEB in Meeting 1/S2020, dated 18th February, 2020.

Appendix I

UoN/GSRER-DoR-POL-005/FORM-001/V1/2020



ANIMAL ETHICS APPLICATION FORM

Date of application

APPLICATION No

1. Investigators:

OFFICE USE ONLY:

REF. No.:

This proposal is:

☐

From:

To:

Approved for the period:

☐

Conditionally approved:

☐

Not approved

Signature of Chair:

Date:

Name	Institution	Department	Role in the study	Email	Signature

Please consider these principles when designing and carrying out projects:

Reduction of animal use, Replacement of animal use & Refinement of animal use

2. Project

Title:

Aim (s) of the study:

Proposed date of commencement:

Proposed date of completion:

Financial support:

Project short summary with focus on its impact on health:

3. Animal

Reason for animal use:

Animal species: mice

Animal strain:

Number of male:

Number of female:

Total Number of animals:

Are any of these animals transgenic, knockout or genetically modified?

Yes/No If Yes, indicate the definition that best describes these animals:

<p>Does the project involve recombinant DNA technology or infectious, toxic, radioactive or carcinogenic agents that may be harmful to other animals or persons?</p> <p>No / Yes: please specify:</p>
<p>Identify the locations at which research using animals will be conducted:</p>

4. Justification of animal use:

<p>Why is it necessary to use animals in this experiment?</p>
<p>What alternatives to animals have been considered and why is it not possible to use these?</p>

5. Animal experiment:

<p>Behavior modification, Stimulus (type, duration, frequency)</p>
<p>Blood/body fluid collection: source, and procedure:</p>
<p>Diet/water modifications:</p>

Drug treatments, route, volume, expected side effect:

Euthanasia:

Surgery: Describe surgery; Is it minor or major surgery? How the animal will be monitored during and after the surgery?

6. Ethical consideration:

Give details on what happens to the animal(s) from the time you obtain them until the time the project is completed

What will happen to animals at the completion of the project?

Will factors affecting animals determine the endpoint of the project (e.g. tumor size, maximum weight loss)?
Yes/No

If Yes, give details

If animals are to be euthanized, how will this be done?

Could animal tissue be shared with other investigators?

7. Declaration by the Principal Investigator

I certify that the use of animals in this project will conform with the University of Nizwa legislation and the general principles or the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes.

I accept responsibility for the conduct of all procedures detailed in this application and for the supervision of all personnel delegated to perform any such procedures.

I confirm that all personnel have read this application and have agreed to comply with procedures described.

Principal Investigator:

Date:

Declaration by Head of Department

I have read this application and am satisfied that the use of animals is justified on scientific, educational or diagnostic grounds.

Head of Department:

Date: