



GRADUATE TRAINING ELEMENT SPECIFICATION

Module Title:	Research Ethics
Module Code:	GS604
Credit Value:	5 ECTS credits
Module description:	<p>The purpose of this module is to examine contemporary ethical issues in research and develop skills in applying ethical theories and principles to practical settings. First, students will examine the history of ethics in general, its main characteristics as a field of inquiry, and methods of ethical deliberation. Second, students will focus in on the ethics of research as a separate field of applied ethics. They will become familiar with broadly accepted principles in research ethics and apply these principles to topical ethical issues. Thus students will be exposed to a broad range of contemporary ethical problems in research, with an opportunity to focus on the specific types of issues most relevant to their particular topic and method of research. Third, the module will address more specifically the ethics of experimental research with humans and/or animals. Finally, students will be encouraged to analyse one particular issue in depth in a research paper.</p>
Delivery Dates:	<p>The module will be delivered in 3 sessions as follows:</p> <p><u>Session 1:</u> Introduction to ethics Tuesday 12 March 2013, 9am - 2pm</p> <p><u>Session 2:</u> Research ethics Tuesday 2 April 2013, 9am - 2pm</p> <p><u>Session 3:</u> Ethics of research with humans and/or animals Tuesday 23 April 2013 9am - 2pm</p> <p>Room CG06, Henry Grattan Building</p>
Module Co-ordinator(s) / Unit Contact Details:	<p>Prof Bert Gordijn, Director of the Institute of Ethics, DCU Tel: 01 700 6140 Email: bert.gordijn@dcu.ie Web: http://dcu.academia.edu/BertGordijn</p>

Indicative content:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to ethics: History, characteristics, and models of moral deliberation • Research ethics: General characteristics of the field; introduction to fundamental principles; case discussions • Ethics of research with humans and/or animals: Historical overview; fundamental principles; practicalities of seeking ethical approval from the Research Ethics Committee; case discussions
Learning Outcomes:	<p>Upon successful completion of this module participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a systematic understanding of relevant ethical principles in research. • Display a critical awareness of various ethical dilemmas in research. • Apply a range of appropriate ethical theories, value systems and principles in order to elucidate ethical issues in research. • Adopt appropriate ethical decision-making models to explore resolutions to ethical problems in research. • Construct reasoned arguments for a justified course of action in ethically difficult cases. • Give evidence of an in-depth ethical analysis of one particular research ethics issue by completion of a paper.
Assessment:	Completion of a research paper
Indicative Reading List (if any):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. William K. Frankena 1973, Ethics, 2nd Ed., http://www.ditext.com/frankena/ethics.html (freely available on the web). 2. David B. Resnik 1998, The Ethics of Science, 1st Ed., Routledge Abington, New York. 3. Paul Oliver 2003, The Student's Guide to Research Ethics, 1st Ed., Open University Press Berkshire, England.
Please state which schools/research centres this module is suitable for:	All
Date of last revision:	November 2012