Responsible Conduct of Research

UPSKILLING LEARNING UNIT (ULU)

Stellenbosch
UNIVERSITY
IYUNIVESITHI
UNIVERSITEIT

MODULE 1:

Introduction to research integrity

6 HOURS

In this module, you will explore the difference between research integrity and research ethics, the structures that govern ethical research at Stellenbosch University, and the eight benchmarks of ethical research. You will also examine some of the issues facing researchers today, such as predatory journals and generative AI. By the end of this module, you will have a clear understanding of the main ideas, standards, and context of ethical research.

The module includes a variety of videos; it will take about six hours to complete all of them. If you dedicate a few hours each day, you can complete the training within a week!

IMPORTANT: If you must apply for ethics clearance for your research, you must complete this module. If you pass the Module 1 quiz, we will email you a badge. You must attach that email to your ethics clearance application.

MODULE 2:

Biosafety

3 HOURS

In this module, you will learn what a biological material is and what you must consider when you work with biological material in your research. By the end of this module, you will understand the ethical considerations of working with biological material, what SU's Biosafety Programme is and where to find more information.

MODULE 3:

Animal research

3 HOURS

In this module, you will explore the three R's of animal care, the potential risks of research with animals, and the process you must follow when considering such research at SU. By the end of this module, you will have a general understanding of how to conduct ethical research with animals and where to find more information about how to include animals in your research in an ethical way.

The module includes a variety of videos; it will take about three hours to go through all the videos.

MODULE 4:
Research with humans

This module covers working with human participants in health research and in social sciences. You will cover how to apply the eight benchmarks of ethical research when conducting research with humans and how to apply for ethical clearance if your research includes humans. By the end of the module, you will understand both the conceptual and practical context for ethical research with humans.

The module includes a variety of videos: it will take you about six hours to go through all the videos. If you dedicate a few hours each day, you can complete the training within a week!

Important: We plan to reduce the time required to complete this module in Phase Two of this initiative. That is why we ask you to give us feedback on the videos you found helpful and why (if any) you would exclude some.

IMPORTANT: When you do research with humans, you must watch the first video, 'Responsible use of race in research', in this module to apply for ethics clearance. Once you have watched the video, we will email you a badge. You must attach that email to your ethics clearance application.

MODULE 5:
Applying for research ethics clearance

In this module, you will get practical as you discover the steps you must follow to apply for ethical research clearance at Stellenbosch University.

The module consists of a variety of videos. It will take about 90 minutes to go through all the videos.

MODULE 6:
Permit compliance

In this module, you will get to know the different kinds of permits you might need when you conduct your research.

The module consists of one video. It will take you about 30 minutes to go through this video.

MODULE 7:
Data protection skills self-assessment

This module covers your data protection responsibilities as set out in ASSAf's POPIA Compliance 2025 Framework for Researchers and Research Institutions.As part of SU's journey towards adopting the Academy of Science of South Africa ("ASSAf") POPIA Compliance 2025 Framework for Researchers and Research Institutions, SU must ensure that all researchers receive training about their data protection responsibilities.You will be introduced to basic data protection and related information literacy concepts and learn how to keep participant information and research data private, accurate and protected against loss.

The module consists of a 10-minute data protection skills self-assessment to assess your knowledge of data protection and related information literacy concepts.

IMPORTANT: All SU research staff and students who must apply for organisational permission (to research SU-affiliated people, SU-held data, or SU itself) and (in the near future) all research that requires ethics approval, must pass this assessment.

IMPORTANT: From 2026 onwards, the IG will launch training programmes or workshops for researchers with intermediate and advanced requirements, such as those required by partners or for particularly high-risk research activities.

What modules do you recommend I complete?

	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7
Doing research (in general)	X						X
Conducting research with human participants or their personal information?	X			X	X	X (if working with or transporting human samples)	X
Conducting research involving animals	X		X		X	X	X
Conducting research that may involve work related to recombinant DNA, pathogens and infectious agents, biological toxins or engineered nanomaterials.	X	X			X	X	X

For more information please contact:

Clarissa Robertson
Director: Research Integrity and Ethics
cgraham@sun.ac.za

Stellenbosch
UNIVERSITY
IYUNIVESITHI
UNIVERSITEIT