**Seeking approval: International higher education students’ experiences of applying for human research ethics clearance in Australia**

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**Interview and Focus Group Questions in English**

**Questions about you**

1. What is your first language?

2. What is your nationality? Where did you complete your previous degree/s?

3. What year of your PhD or research are you currently in?

4. What faculty, school or subject is your study associated with?

5. Are you approaching this study from a qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods approach?

6. To your knowledge, is ethics approval in your discipline mandatory for researchers in your country of origin?

7. Were you anxious or hesitant about your project requiring HREC approval? Why/why not?

8. Do you feel that you would avoid pursuing a particular research project because it requires HREC approval? *Please provide justification if possible.*

**Your previous experiences of the research ethics approval process**

9A. Have you encountered the concept of ‘Ethics’ in your education in China? Please explain in as much as detail as possible.

9B. Have you encountered the concept of ‘Research Ethics’ in your education in China? Please explain in as much as detail as possible.

9C. What formal education around applied research ethics have you received prior to your research? Please explain in as much detail as possible. *This may include secondary school, undergraduate and postgraduate education or additional research on your part.*

10. Do you believe that this previous education has improved your ability or confidence to understand research ethics, either applied or conceptually? *Please explain in as much detail as possible.*

12. Is there any additional education you feel you should have received that would have helped to improve your understanding?

13. Have you been required to complete a HREC or other ethics approval form for your current study?

14. Prior to this inquiry, had you had any previous interaction with the ethical policies in place at The University of Adelaide?

15. Have you completed a HREC ethics application for a previous project? Where was your project conducted and did you experience any issues with your application?

**Your current experience of the research ethics approval process**

16. Did you find the application difficult to complete? Please explain any difficulties in as much detail as possible.

17. Did you experience concerns about your application requiring amendments or not being successful in the first round? *Please explain in as much detail as possible.*

18. What support materials did you access to assist you in completing the application?

19. Were the materials you accessed easy to understand or relevant to your application process?

20. Did you approach any people to assist you in completing your application?

21. What was their role and how did they support you?

22. What support in the process would you have liked to receive that was not available for you to access?

**Potential challenges in the research ethics approval process**

23. Do you think there is any reason that these supports were not available for you throughout your application?

24. Do you believe that discussing or writing about the ethical implications of your research was challenging? Why/why not? Which aspects specifically?

25. In what ways, if any, has the completion of the ethics application impacted your conduct within your research?

26. Do you believe that ethical issues exist within your project that are not explicitly addressed within you HREC application? What are they/would they be?

*If participant is currently not going through research ethics approval process, please refer to the following questions after Question 14:*

15. To your knowledge, what is ‘Research Ethics’? Could you please provide a few key words associated with Research Ethics? How did you know them?

16. What is ‘Research Integrity’? Could you please provide a few key words associated with Research Integrity? How did you know them?

17. What is ‘Consent’ in research ethics? Could you please provide a few key words associated with Consent? How did you know about Consent?

18. Do you have any strategies to seek consent in your research? How did you think of those strategies? How did you acquire those strategies?

19. What is ‘Confidentiality’ in research ethics? Could you please provide a few key words associated with Confidentiality? How did you know learn about research confidentiality?

20. Do you have any strategies to protect confidentiality in your research? How did you think of those strategies? How did you acquire those strategies?

21. What is ‘Misconduct’ in research ethics? Could you please provide a few key words associated with Misconduct? How did you learn about Misconduct in research?

22. Do you have any strategies to avoid Misconduct in your research? How did you think of those strategies? How did you acquire those strategies?

23. What is are ‘Conflicts of Interest’ in research ethics? Could you please provide a few key words associated with Conflicts of Interest? How did you learn about Conflicts of Interest in research?

24. Do you have any strategies to avoid Conflicts of Interest in your research? How did you think of those strategies? How did you acquire those strategies?

25. What is ‘Plagiarism’ in research ethics? Could you please provide a few key words associated with Plagiarism? How did you know learn about Plagiarism in research?

26. Do you have any strategies to avoid Plagiarism in your research? How did you think of those strategies? How did you acquire those strategies?