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Institutional Review Board (IRB)

**IRB Guidelines 1.6**  
International and Cross-Cultural Research  
Version 1.2

examinations or tests. However, are not limited to psychological and physical risks alone but also include other forms of risks (e.g. social and economic risks to individuals such as stigmatization and risks to employability). For more discussion also see [SACHRP Guidelines](#)

**Documentation of Familiarity with Local Research Context:** To uphold the ethical standards of research in an international/cultural setting, researchers are required to demonstrate an appropriate understanding of the local cultural context as well as its current social and political circumstances. **Note:** Researchers may demonstrate their familiarity by providing a basic description of the research context supported by relevant peer-reviewed research articles that offer specific insights into the current social, cultural and political context, published peer-reviewed papers or dissertations that are judged by the IRB to be applicable to the local context for the protocol being reviewed. Non-published, written materials provided by the investigator(s), however, can be the sole source.

**Description of the Cultural Appropriateness of the Research Design:** In addition to having an adequate understanding of the local research context, researchers also need to demonstrate the cultural appropriateness of the research design and its research protocols. In particular, researchers need to show how consent procedures, recruitment processes, negotiation of site access and protocols are sensitive and appropriate. **Note:** Researchers may support their description by providing relevant peer-reviewed articles that underscore the appropriateness of the research design. They may also include their own previously published peer-reviewed papers or dissertations (if judged by the IRB to be applicable to the local context). However, non-published, written materials provided by the investigator(s) cannot be the sole source of support.

**Review of Research Proposal by Qualified Cultural Consultant:** Refers to an individual (or IRB member) who has personal knowledge of the study site, such knowledge having been obtained through extended, direct experience with the subject population and their environment, who are, in the estimation of the IRB qualified to provide an informed and independent review. Qualified individuals may include, for example, a scholar, the author of a book, article (etc.), or someone who has traveled or lived within the country. The review procedure mirrors the one described under "Greater Than Minimal Risk" Research (see below). **Note:** To minimize conflicts of interest, the IRB of the University of North Georgia will not accept (v)11(er)-5(s)9(iu15(ed o)9)-3(9hr)- 0 g 0o024 317.

## Approach 1: Studies Requiring Foreign Institutional

Does the researcher have an adequate understanding of the local social

context of the research?

yes

no

Provide Documentation

yes

no

Provide Explanation

yes

no

#### Review Option 4

In cases where the nature and risk of the research warrants an extra layer of protection and/or where the researchers familiarity with the local cultural context is limited, the researcher will be asked to provide the following information and documentation to the UNG IRB to make its determination:

1. a description of the cultural appropriateness of the research design
2. review of research proposal by qualified cultural consultant
3. additional application requirements (where appropriate)
  - o documentation of site permissions and/or
  - o contact information for local site collaborators

#### Research Involving "Greater Than Minimal Risk"

of the review

