

## 4.b. Research Ethics Policy

<b>Subject</b>	Research and Scholarly Activities	<b>Effective From</b>	Sep - 2011
<b>Policy #</b>	4.b.	<b>Latest Revision</b>	Feb - 2025
<b>Title of The Policy</b>	Research Ethics Policy	<b>Next Review</b>	Dec - 2025
<b>Responsible Entity</b>	Colleges Councils, Scientific Research & Graduate Studies Deanships	<b>Policy Pages</b>	2
<b>Definitions</b>	<p><b>AAU:</b> Al Ain University  <b>AAU-REC:</b> AAU Research Ethical Committee  <b>REC:</b> Research Ethics Committee (Human- Animal- Plants and Environment)  <b>HAAD:</b> Health Authority Abu Dhabi  <b>AD-HRC :</b> Abu Dhabi Health Research Council</p>		
<b>Purpose</b>	<p>To have a standards and procedure that should be applied for ethical assessment and approval of any clinical research projects or in vivo studies and experiments undertaken at AAU. Policy and procedures implemented for ethics assessment processes by AAU Research Ethical Committee (AAU-REC) is represented in this document. The University support and encourages a wide range of research activity carried on by faculty members, lab instructors, research assistants, undergraduate or postgraduate students. Research reliability, integrity and ethical status are essential elements for research quality and science. All researches undertaken at AAU should follow the highest ethical standards whereas any research with significant ethical concerns may be submitted for additional ethical review and further assessments. Any research project required human's participations, animal's experiments, access to clinical data of patients or biological samples collections or involvement should be submitted first to AAU-REC for review and research can be undertaken after AAU-REC approval.</p>		
<b>Scope</b>	<p>This policy applies to all research studies involve humans and animals.</p>		
<b>Statement</b>	<p>To uphold the utmost ethical standards in clinical research and in vivo studies, and to safeguard the integrity, originality, quality, and ethical status of such endeavors, it is imperative that all individuals participating in clinical research projects or in vivo experiments under the auspices of AAU adhere to the laws of the UAE, as well as the cultural and societal norms, alongside AAU's rigorous standards and regulations. In the pursuit of this goal, AAU-REC assumes the responsibility of meticulously reviewing and verifying research proposals to ensure their compliance with the required ethical considerations before granting approval.</p>		
<b>Procedures</b>	<p><b><u>Ethical Approval</u></b>  It is required for any research project involving human participation, animal experiments, and involvements, clinical data reading, biological samples collections, etc... Studies with the previously mentioned involvements must be subjected to Ethical Approval obtained from AAU-REC followed by ethical approval from an external institution where the study to be performed onsite. Ethical approval from AAU-REC must be obtained prior to the study</p>		

	<p>starting.</p> <p><b><u>Researcher Responsibilities</u></b></p> <p>When human subjects, animal experiments, access to clinical data of patients or biological sample collections are taken part in the clinical research project or in vivo studies and experiments, the following point must be followed by researcher participants:</p> <p>Follow all AAU policies, procedures, and regulations in addition to complying with all required AD-HRC procedures, regulations, and ethical principles. Besides, the research proposal should be submitted to AAU-REC for review, recommendation, and approval prior to starting any experiment dealing with human subjects, animal experiments, human data reading, biological sample collections, etc. However, consultation with AAU-REC is strongly recommended upon any argument and debate for a research study on whether it requires ethical approval or not. AAU policies and procedures must provide security and privacy for data collected where applicable.</p> <p>Promptly notify AAU-REC in the event of any issues, accidents, or incidents that arise during the study and could potentially affect the well-being or safety of human participants. The exemption can be considered when such changes are urgent because there is a requirement for immediate hazard elimination.</p> <p><b><u>AAU Research Ethics Committee (AAU-REC):</u></b></p> <p>The Committee comprises of 6 members as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee Chair (either Dean or deputy dean of the College of Pharmacy).</li> <li>• Committee members (five Faculty members with higher research records).</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Duties of AAU-REC:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•To review the submitted research proposal through an official request form</li> <li>•To proceed with the research revision and revision must be according to HAAD regulations as shown in the web link below: <a href="http://www.haad.ae/HAAD/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=UL7o8f5mukc%3D&amp;tabid=820">http://www.haad.ae/HAAD/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=UL7o8f5mukc%3D&amp;tabid=820</a></li> <li>•To approve conducting the research project when the proposal complies with all regulations and policies of HAAD and AAU-REC</li> <li>•To submit the research proposal to HAAD Authority to get their approval when required.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recent Changes</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "The policy has undergone a comprehensive review and update, aligning it with current best practices ."</li> <li>2. "A meticulous proofreading process was undertaken to enhance the readability of the policy, ensuring clarity and ease of understanding for all stakeholders."</li> </ol>