

eCourse in Research Ethics

BACKGROUND

Research ethics is the bedrock of quality health research. High quality ethics in research requires the research design to be ethical and implementation processes of the research to be ethical too. Poor science is also unethical. Additionally, it is mandatory that all research involving humans is reviewed by the institutional ethics committee which is situated at the parent institution where the research is being conducted and/ in addition/or by national committees. Publication of your research findings is also almost impossible without ethical clearance. It is important that “Chairs”, “members of ethics committees” and investigators are cognizant and sensitized to the multi-faceted dimensions of research ethics and its implementation. Thus it is imperative for the members of ethics committees, investigators, doctors and public health researchers, and students of medicine and those in allied sciences to be equipped with issues related to ethics. These could be nurses, physiotherapists, dentists, microbiologists, pathologists, surgeons, medical superintendents etc. This course will enable them to conceive, develop the research design, write it, implement and conduct research in an ethical manner. They can also review the ethical soundness of studies.

OBJECTIVES

This course aims to sensitize members of ethics committees, researchers and students on the ethical principles of research ethics in humans, essentially in the context of public health research and implementation trials. Real time situations and examples of challenging situations which are common in every day research and practice can be viewed through suggested links of videos. Much of the course will be taught using a case method approach and participants will have an opportunity to work through a number of ethical dilemmas in a variety of situations. The focus of this course would be more related to public health research and implementation research.

COURSE DESIGN & DURATION

The course is designed as a three month computer based eCourse, largely self-taught, complimented with online lectures, suggested video films and online resources. English would be the language of instruction.

ELIGIBILITY

The course is open to the following candidates:

Members of ethics committees, investigators, doctors, and public health researchers; graduates from medicine or other health sciences (dentists, physiotherapists, nurses, pharmacists etc.), who would be getting into research with humans; Medical doctors desirous to do their dissertation for their MD, MS, MCh, DNB, DM. Even doctors, nurses, dentists, physiotherapists who intend to get only into clinical practice would benefit from it as they would be able to assess the ethics of any research article which they read. The course

is suggested for all MBBS graduates, those doing post graduation in any medical field (DNB, MD, MS, DM, MCh, MDS) and also young researchers embarking into research, research associates, research fellows, project directors, research officers, field workers, and research coordinators. All personnel indulging in research would benefit.

Eligible candidates would be screened based on their application and statement of purpose by the selection committee. Decision taken by the selection committee will be final.

COURSE OUTLINE

The course contents includes an introduction and sensitization to the following : Principles of research ethics in humans and the history of ethics, ethics of placebo trials and clinical equipoise, privacy and confidentiality, informed consent, conflict of interest, ethical issues in community-based research, standards of care, ethics in qualitative research, Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) also known as Institutional Ethics Committees (IECs) - objectives, constitution, roles, responsibilities, review process, sensitization to government of India regulations and Schedule Y, GCP and IC-GCP, safety reporting time lines, compensation and post-trial access, audits, regulatory requirements of clinical trials research; and sensitization to some of the ethical issues involving marginalized populations.

TEACHING & COURSE DELIVERY METHODOLOGY

The course will be delivered in the hybrid / blended learning mode i.e. through a combination of online lectures, suggestions on online resources including films which need viewing, recommended readings from journal articles/ links available online and an interactive discussion board.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

- **Internet Bandwidth:** 1 Mbps
- **Processor:** Intel Pentium 4 or equivalent and above
- **RAM:** 512 MB and above (1 GB recommended)
- **Supported browsers:** recent Google Chrome, recent Mozilla Firefox, Safari 6, Internet Explorer 9
- **Latest Adobe Flash Player**
- **Supported Operating Systems:** Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, Mac OS, Linux, iOS, Android, etc.
- **Headset with microphone (web camera - optional)**

EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated through online examination in the form of MCQs and participation in live interactive session.

COURSE FEE

The course fee is INR 9000 for Indian and South Asian Nationals, and USD 330 for other international candidates.



Other eLearning Programs offered by PHFI

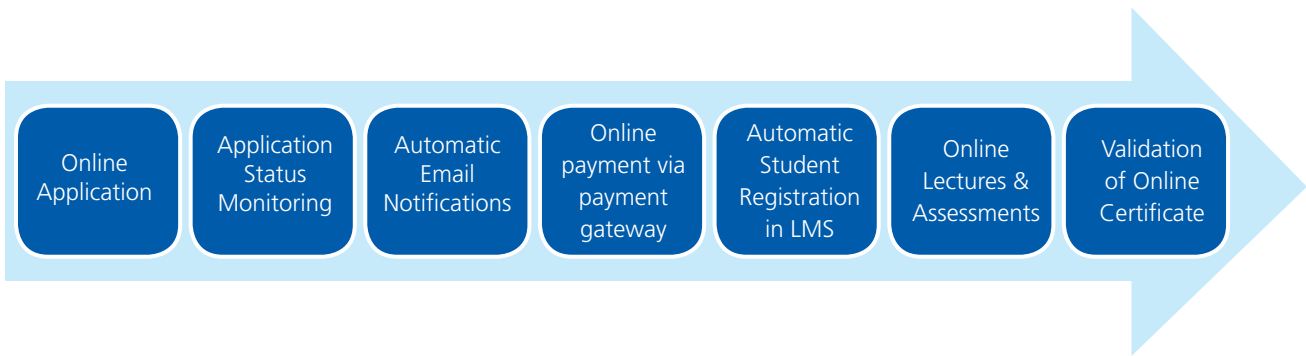
| Name of the Program | Duration |
|---|----------|
| ePost Graduate Program in Public Health Nutrition | 1 year |
| ePost Graduate Program in Epidemiology | 1 year |
| ePost Graduate Program in Management of Reproductive and Child Health Programs | 1 year |
| ePost Graduate Program in Health Promotion | 1 year |
| ePost Graduate Program in Public Health and Hospital Management for Nursing and Allied Health Professionals | 1 year |
| ePost Graduate Program in Public Health Services Management | 1 year |
| ePost Graduate Program in Health Economics, Health Care Financing and Policy | 1 year |
| Executive Post Graduate Diploma in Public Health Nutrition- Afghanistan | 1 year |
| eCourse in Research Methodology | 6 months |
| eCourse in STI & HIV/AIDS | 6 months |
| eCourse on Monitoring & Evaluation of Health Programs | 6 months |
| eCourse on GIS Application in Public Health | 6 months |
| eCourse in Health System Strengthening | 6 months |
| eCourse on Public Health Development for ICDS Officials | 6 months |
| eCourse in Public Health Surveillance | 6 months |
| eAdvanced Program in Hospital Management | 6 months |
| Certificate Course in Clinical Research Methods for DNB Students | 4 months |
| eCourse in Good Public Health and Clinical Laboratory Practice | 4 months |
| eCourse on Tobacco Control | 3 months |
| eCourse on Health, Safety & Environment Management | 3 months |
| eCourse in Effective Grant Writing | 3 months |

Prospective eLearning Programs

- eCourse in Essentials of Health Informatics
- eCourse in Public Health Planning and Research for Disability
- eCourse in Orientation to Public Health for Undergraduate Medical students
- eCourse for Basics in SPSS /Data Sources and their use for PH decision making
- eCourse in Program Management for Medical Officers
- eCourse in Orientation to NCDs for Allied Health Professionals and General Community [MOOCS]
- eCourse in Demography and Public Health
- eCourse in Urban Health
- eCourse in Managing Human Resources for Health in India

Unique features of PHFI Centre for eLearning

- State of the art Learning Management System
- Multidisciplinary faculty
- Self-paced learning
- Collaboratively developed programs with national and international organizations
- Wide range of programs in key areas of public health practice



On-Campus programs offered by PHFI

| Name of the Program | Duration | Offered at |
|---|--|---|
| PhD (Full time) in Health Sciences/ Public Health | Min. 3 years | IIPH-Delhi ⁽¹⁾ |
| PhD in Public Health | Min. 3 years | IIPH-Gandhinagar ⁽²⁾ |
| Integrated MSc & PhD in Clinical Research* | 2 years for MSc and min. 3 years for PhD | IIPH-Delhi |
| Integrated MSc & PhD in Health Informatics* | 2 years for MSc and min. 3 years for PhD | IIPH-Hyderabad |
| Master of Public Health (MPH) | 2 years | IIPH-Delhi ⁽¹⁾ , IIPH-Gandhinagar ⁽²⁾ , IIPH-Hyderabad ⁽³⁾ |
| Master of Hospital Administration (MHA) | 2 years | IIPH-Gandhinagar ⁽²⁾ |
| Post Graduate Diploma in Public Health Management (PGDPHM)# | 1 year | IIPH-Delhi, IIPH-Gandhinagar, IIPH-Hyderabad and IIPH-Bhubaneswar |
| Associate Fellow of Industrial Health (AFIH)^ | 3 months | IIPH-Gandhinagar |

⁽¹⁾ Affiliated to Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) Trivandrum, an Institute of National Importance under Govt. of India

⁽²⁾ Offered by Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India (A University under State Govt. Act)

⁽³⁾ Affiliated to Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences, Telangana

* A two-year Master's program (MSc in Clinical Research or Health Informatics), with the option of pursuing a PhD, if eligible, as an Integrated MSc-PhD in Clinical Research or Health Informatics. Offered in collaboration with Academy of Scientific & Innovative Research (AcSIR), an Institute of National Importance established by Act of Parliament

Supported under National Health Mission (NHM), MoHFW, Govt. of India

^ Regulated by Directorate General, Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), Govt. of India

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Website: www.pphi.org