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AS **141** 

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Academic Policy

## **Credit Overload Policy**

Policy on full-time status of students or the maximum number of credit points a student is allowed to register in a term.

Approved on: 14 May 2006 Approved by: Academic Board

Contact person: Registrar

#### 1. Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to delineate full-time status of a student and set the maximum credit point load of a student enrolled in MNU as a full-time student.

In formulating this policy, the Academic Senate is aware that the maintenance of learning and teaching quality is a priority and this purpose must not be subjugated to the conflicting desire of a few students to complete a qualification in a short time. Overloads compromise many academic and administrative quality controls including learning outcomes, time-tabling, etc.

However, genuine instances may arise in which overloads may be considered. This policy sets out the maximum load allowed for all cases that may arise.

#### 2. Definitions

**Full-time Student:** A full-time student is one who is registered in at least 75% of the normal credit load stipulated by the Maldives Qualifications Authority OR registered in more subjects than prescribed by the qualification's full-time curriculum for any given study period. In other words, for full-time status, a student must be registered in subjects whose credit points total 45 or more. A

postgraduate full-time research student is one who is classified as full-time at the time of initial registration or spends at least 35 hours per week on studies during the term. If the student is registered in a course in which the subjects do not have credit points, a full-time student is one who has at least 15 hours of contact per week.

**Part-time Student:** A part-time student is one who has registered for less than 75% of the normal load or less than 45 credit points. If the subjects do not have credit points, the student would be considered part-time if the weekly contact hours less than 15 hours for the study period.

**Normal Load:** The normal full-time study load of a student is prescribed by Maldives Qualifications Authority. It is 120 credit points per academic year or 60 credit points per term in cases where there two terms per year.

Overload: Any student who has enrolled for subjects or units of study amounting to greater than 60 credit points OR enrolled in more subjects than prescribed by the qualification's full-time curriculum has an overload of subjects. Overloads are usually not allowed.

#### 3. Principles

- 1. Overloads usually do not permit students to spend sufficient time on each subject and, therefore, diminishes the student's quality of MNU experience.
- 2. To safeguard the quality of teaching and learning, MNU is under no obligation to facilitate accelerated completion of awards with overloads.
- 3. MNU will not generally offer courses with workloads in excess of 60 credit points per term as a matter of principle.
- 4. The focus of MNU is on maximizing the chances of student success. Therefore, the primary consideration should be "does the student have the ability to successfully complete the subjects/units?" Overload requests based on financial, personal and/or family considerations will not generally be accepted.

#### 4. Guidelines

- 1. In order to be considered for an overload, students must fulfill all of the following criteria:
  - Be in good academic standing.
  - Successfully completed the prior semester and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher.
  - Have demonstrated the ability to handle a heavy course load in a previous semester with no grades less than a "CR".
  - Have no remaining incompletes (IN's) from a previous semester.

- 2. Even if the criteria listed in (1) are met, no student will be approved for an overload exceeding 30 credit points under any circumstance.
- 3. All requests for overloading must be made to the Faculty/Centre Office directly. This can be done in person by filling out a Credit Overload Request form or by email to a course coordinator.
- 4. If a student applies for and receives approval to overload, the student must ensure that they have chosen subjects that have no timetable clashes, or approval will be withdrawn.
- 5. Student must be aware that by choosing to overload they might achieve lower results and jeopardize their chances of qualifying for honours. Overloading is not grounds for special consideration in any procedure.
- 6. Exceptions to the above stipulated load will be the following:
  - a. The student has not completed a semester of study at MNU and thus has no record of performance. In this instance, the course coordinator will decide whether to grant an overload based on experience and previous performance at other institutions.
  - b. An overload of up to 15 credit points will allow the student to complete a qualification. In this case, the Dean or the Head of the home Faculty/Centre will decide whether to allow an overload or not.
  - c. Dean's scholars.
- 7. Students will not be allowed to take an overload in the first semester of study.

Students will not be allowed to take an overload in the first semester of study, unless they have demonstrated outstanding academic performance through recent history at MNU (i.e. CGPA of 2.5 or higher in the two most recent semester of course completed at MNU with no grades less than CR), usually within 12 month period from the date of request for overload

#### 5. Administrative Procedures

- 1. Requests for overloads cannot be accepted or considered unless the results of the subjects are published and available except in the instances noted above.
- 2. No requests for overload will be considered after the "Last Day to Withdraw without Penalty" date.
- 3. All requests for overloads must be in the Overload Request Form accompanied by supporting documentation.
- 5. MNU is under no obligation to adjust the time-tabling to remove clashes for overloaded students. Students must face the consequences of non-attendance where classes clash.

#### 6. Responsibilities

- 1. The ultimate responsibility for decisions regarding the overload requests is with the Head of the division which owns the award or qualification.
- 2. The decision by the relevant faculty/Centre head will be FINAL, and there is No Appeal process.
- 3. The *Registrar* will take appropriate steps regarding ADDing new subjects. However, s/he is under no obligation to change time-tables to accommodate any student registering for an approved overload.

Dated: 14 May 2006

Revised: 02nd March 2014, by Academic Senate

#### **The Maldives National University**

Nikagas Magu, Machchangolhi, Malé, Maldives. Phone 3345155; Fax: 3315411

### **Credit Overload Request Form**

بسب المذالزم الزحيم

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	ACTION COMPLETED –	OFFICE USE ONLY	
APPROVAL			
Course Coordinator			Date:
Department Head (If required b	y Faculty/Centre)		Date:
Dean/Head			Date:
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" The completed form must be	submitted to Student Administrative Services.		Form: CO-01 16032014

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### **Student Admissions Policy**

First Approved: 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2000 24thMarch2014 This Revision: Approved by: AcademicSenate

Contact person: Registrar

#### A. Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to set out the procedures for student selection and admission in the Maldives National University (MNU). The procedures apply to all credit bearing courses of the University.

In MNU, the academic year is organized into two terms. The first term starts usually in January and the second in June or July. Courses open to admission will be announced four months before teaching weeks begin.

#### **B. Principles**

- 1. MNU is committed to providing a fair admission system. A fair admissions system provides equal opportunity for all individuals, regardless of their background, to gain admission to a course suited to their ability and aspirations.
- 2. A fair admissions system must be transparent. All applicants must have the opportunity to verify the selection process by following suitable administrative processes. Procedures for complaints and appeals must be available to applicants.
- 3. Prior educational attainment information, for example, OL/IGCSE/SSC or AL/HSC results, is the best single indicator of success available for deciding admission. Admission criteria for any course should not include factors irrelevant to the assessment of the potential of the student to complete a course.
- Admission processes should minimize barriers that are irrelevant to meeting admission requirements.
- MNU Admissions system must be regarded by the public with confidence. It must offer a high-quality, prompt and professional service to applicants.

- 6. *Eligible* applicants will be offered seats on a *first-come first-served basis*; that is, students are allocated seats in the order the eligible applications arrive without other considerations or biases including higher academic attainment.
- 7. Whenever possible, student preferences on courses will be given priority.

#### C. Information for applicants and enquirers

- 1. Accurate and appropriate pre-entry information, transparent admissions procedures and support to prospective students will be provided by MNU.
- 2. Up-to-date selection criteria and processes will be published on MNU website and other public media.
- 3. Every effort will be made to ensure that the information provided is accurate at the time of publication. All information that is subject to change, after publication such as course information, entry criteria, University processes/policies and financial matters will be kept up-to-date on MNU website.

#### D. Responsibilities and roles of Student Administrative Services

The Student Administrative Services is responsible for:

- 1. Responding to enquiries regarding admission processes and advising students on specific applications.
- 2. Receiving and processing all applications to study at the University.
- 3. Decision making in line with agreed criteria and onward transmission to applicants.
- 4. Advise students on course applications.
- 5. Informing students on their admission status within two weeks of application submission in cases where application requirements are complete.

#### E. Responsibility of applicants in the application process

The Applicant is responsible:

- 1. To provide full and accurate information in an application and to notify MNU of any changes or corrections to the original application.
- 2. To abide by the rules and regulations of the University in the application process.

#### F. Selection criteria

For most MNU courses the number of applications received is *more* than the available seats. Therefore, seats may not be offered to <u>all</u> applicants who meet the minimum entry qualifications. All applicants for a course are assessed against the <u>same</u> entry criteria which are publically announced through MNU website and other media channels. However, as

seats are allocated on a first-come first-served basis, a student who have better examination results but applies later may not get admission.

#### Academic Requirements

- 1. Details of course specific entry criteria will be made available when applications are called for.
- 2. Applicants must possess the minimum qualifications as required by individual Faculty/Centre or courses. Applicants who do not meet the published criteria will not be selected. If due to shortage of applicants, a revision of entry criteria is required, then a new public announcement of the revised criteria should be made.

#### Non-academic and further requirements

- Some MNU courses require appropriate levels of English Language competence.
   Applicants who do not have the level of English Language requirement may sit the MNU English Language Entrance examination conducted at least twice each year by MNU. Where other language or subject competencies form prerequisites for admission, MNU may offer examinations at its discretion.
- 2. Entry to some courses of study requires students to meet additional non-academic conditions. These may include interviews, police screening checks and health checks. Where such requirements are called for, these will be specified in the announcement and advised to applicants.
- 3. Applicants seeking entry from alternative requirements must submit details of work experience and other documents to support their applications.

#### **G. Documents for Application**

- 1. The maximum number of courses applied by an applicant should not exceed three (3) for any particular intake.
- 2. All the courses an applicant is applying for must be stated in one application form in the order of preference. Offers will be given based on the preference of the applicant and availability of seats.
- 3. Students will need to submit the following with all applications:
  - a. Completed and signed University application form.
  - b. Attested copies of all relevant certificates and / or credentials.
  - c. Copy of national identity card.
- 4. For some courses, all or some of the following additional documentation are required. All the documents listed are not required for all the courses. The required documents will be specified in the course announcement.
  - a. Proof of employment from employers.
  - b. A reference from the current or last employer.

- c. Records such as school leaving certificate, attested copy of the report card for the last year completed at school.
- d. Other documents.

#### H. Assessing and communicating with applicants

- 1. The Student Administrative Services and MNU campuses receive all applications.
- 2. The Student Administrative Services processes all applications.
- 3. If the course involves an assessment based on academic requirements only, then the Registrar's office will make the selection decision based on entry criteria. The decision will be informed to the student by email.
- 4. In cases, where achievement against the criteria is not certificated or is otherwise unclear, an application may be referred to the respective Faculty/Centre.
- 5. Where further assessment activity is required (e.g. interview/entrance examination), the applicants will be referred to the respective Faculty/Centre/Department. For such cases the offer-making process may be delayed.
- 6. In all cases decisions and subsequent admissions-related information are communicated by the Student Administrative Services Office via email.
- 7. Students who are not successful in their application may request Student Administrative Services to return the attested copies of their certificates within one year of application, after the term begins.

#### I. Acceptance of offer and registration

- 1. Once an applicant receives an offer for an MNU course the applicant is expected to do the following:
  - a. Accept the offer using the form provided within the period noted in the offer letter.
  - b. Register in the course and pay fees in the period noted in the offer letter.
  - c. Complete any other requirements noted in the offer letter.
- 2. The University reserves the right to cancel an offer if the applicant does not register in the period stated in the offer letter.

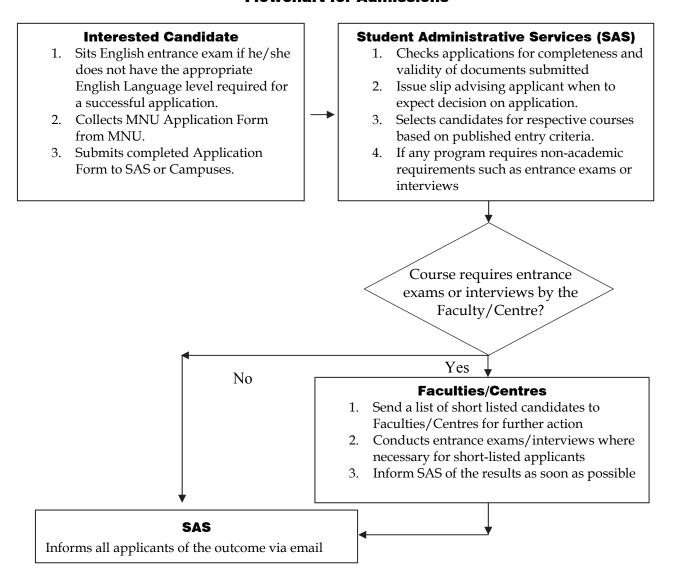
#### J. Withdrawal or cancellation of offer

The university reserves the right to withdraw or cancel an offer under the following circumstances:

a. The offer to a course is based on the assumption that the applicant has accurately and truthfully presented all the relevant facts in their application documents. The University will withdraw or cancel the offer if it was found that the documentation provided to secure the offer is inaccurate or incomplete or misrepresented the applicant's academic and other achievements.

- b. The University will withdraw the offer, if the applicant is found to have a criminal conviction or engaged in nefarious activities that could compromise the reputation and safety of other students and staff.
- c. University policies stipulate that a certain number of students must register for a course before the course can be taught. The offer will be withdrawn if the registered students are fewer than what is required.
- d. In extenuating circumstances, the University may not be able to gain access to resources that it expected to gain to run a course. In these circumstances, the offer will be withdrawn.
- e. If the offer made to an applicant is withdrawn, the University will attempt to offer the student, his or her second or third choice of course, in that order, subject to availability of seats and eligibility.
- f. Offer of a seat in a course is considered withdrawn if the student does not complete the acceptance and registration processes in the period given in the offer letter.
- g. In cases where an offer is withdrawn or cancelled, the liability of the University is limited to the reimbursement of the fees collected.

#### Flowchart for Admissions



## الرُّرُ وَرُفُ اللَّهُ الْمُؤْرِدُ مُورِدُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ الْمُؤْرِدُ اللَّهُ اللْ

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وَمَرْجِ مِنْ مُعْسَدُمُ " عَ وَمُورِهُ مِنْ مِنْ مُعْمِدُ الْمُعْدِ الْمُعْدِي الْمُعْدِ الْمُعِلِي الْمُعْدِ الْمُعْدِي الْمُعِدِي الْمُعْدِي الْمُعِدِي الْمُعْدِي الْمُعْدِي الْمُعْدِي الْمُعْدِي الْمُعْدِي الْمُعِدِي الْمُعْدِي الْمُعْمِ الْمُعْمِ الْمُعْمِ ال 

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الْ إِلَّهُ مُوْ مُوْ رِسُوعُ مِ رُسُونُ مَا وَمُحَدِا رُحِ الْإِلَّهُ مُوْ صُومُ مُنْ سَوْمُ مِنْ الْعَلَى ال ئِرِيْرِهُ وَمُورِدُورُ وَمُورِدُ وَمُورِدُ وَمُورِدُ وَمُورِدُ وَمُورِدُ وَمُورِدُ وَمُورِدُ وَمُورِدُورُ رَدَع رِوْرة دُرْوو وَرُول عَ وِرْم وَ وَرَبْ الْمُولُولِ دُمَا وَلَا دُورُمِ لَا دُرُ دُولُ وَ الْمُوكِمُ لَا وَرُولُ לת ל בל מת מרכות פ. תו ת ל בל מת מת מרפית פ.

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وْمَاوْجِ دُوْ دُوْدُ مُوْدُ وْمَاوْجِ دُوْ سَرِدُ دُرِ وَدُوْرُمُونُ مُورِدُ دُرِ وَدُوْرُهُمُ مُورُدُ % ס כ כֿיים א כזי כנז אינם א ז'אס י ים איזם מס כיים ז'ס כיים ס כיזז ציייט מיבע מא ממצב ציפות מרפש א צ'אר יים א איז אריים או איז אריים או איז איז אריים איז איז איז איז איז איז איז 2. خدي هي مي مائي ري ودوري مي المائي مي مي المائي المائي المائية المائ

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2015 وَسُرُ رُرُدُو وَمُرْوَدُ جُهُودُ كُورُونُ فَا وَدُولُونِي وَرُونُ 151 (ئۇرىغى ئىرىدىر) ئۇرىدىنىدىرى

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وُ وَ وَ وَ وَ وَ مُرْدُ: ا فَيْ مُرْ 1 كَا عِنْ اللَّهِ اللَّهِ اللَّهِ اللَّهِ اللَّهِ اللَّهِ اللَّهِ اللَّ

وَرَوْجِ دَوْ سَوْجِرُ دُسِوْ وَى صَحْوَمَ دَوْ سَوْجِرُ دُسِوْ وَدَ لَابِغَ وَسُوْدُرُو مُرْمَكُو مُرَّ مُرْج 

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معرورود رمن

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وْرُوع دُو دُو دُود دُود دُور دِور دُو عِمِرد (وَرَدِوبِ)" كَا مُ دُرُودُود دُور دِرور ورور ورور وروا دِرُهُ وَ وَ وَ وَ مُرْ مُرُونُهُ وَ وَ مُرْ وَ مُرُو وَ مُرُودُ

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وْرُوع دُوْ دُغ دُرًا سُورُهُ "فَكُولِم دُوْ جِمِسْد (دُمْرِ كَوْرُودْدُ)" كَاسْ دُرْوُوْدْدُ دُرُدُرُ وَرِدُرُ 

AS وَمَرْجِ رَوْ رَجْدُ رَمْ صَرْدُ الْمَاؤُسُومَ عَ وَرِحْدُ رَمْرُ رَمْرِ كَوْرُوعْ رَا الْمَا 

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وَّ مُنْ مُرُونِهُ مُعِرِدُ: 8 فَيْسُ 2014 | يَحُوسُ: 68

1. " الْجُوبِ مُنْ رُجِعَةُ كَنْ يُعْ اللَّهُ مُنْ مِسْمِعُ مِنْ وَقَوْدِ مِنْ الْحَارِينَ الْحَارِينَ الْمُعْتَا الْمُعْتَى الْمُعْتَالِ الْمُعْتَى الْمُعْتَالِ الْمُعْتَى الْمُعْتَالِ الْمُعْتَى الْمُعْتَعِلِي الْمُعْتَى الْمُعْتِقِيلِ الْمُعْتَى الْمُعْتَى الْمُعْتَى الْمُعْتَى الْمُعْتَى الْمُعْتِيلِ الْمُعْتَى الْمُعْتِيلِ ال رُورِي المَورِي المَ وُوْ" دُ وُوْ رُوِّ بَالْمَارُوْرُ "وَرِسْمِ بِرِسَامِيْ "شَوْمَ لُولِيْ رَسَارِسْوَسْعَامُدُ رُوَّ

وَبِرَوْيَرْسُرِرْ دُرِّعَ مِعْرَدِيْ دِيْ زُوْدُ هُدُرَّيْرِيْرَوْرْ وَالْمِيْرِوْرْ عَالَمْ وَرُوَّهُ وَسُرَوْرُ وَالْمِيْرِ وَرُوْيَا وَالْمِيْرِوْرُ وَالْمُوْيِرُوْدُ وَالْمِيْرِوْرُ وَالْمِيْرُوْيُوْ وَالْمُوْيُرُوْدُ وَالْمُوْيُرُونَ وَالْمُوْيُرُونِ وَالْمُوْيُرُونَ وَالْمُوْيُرُونَ وَالْمُولِدُونَ وَالْمُولِدُونَ وَالْمُولِدُونَ وَالْمُولِدُونَ وَالْمُولِدُونَ وَالْمُولِدُونَ وَالْمُولِدُونَ وَالْمُولِدُونَ وَالْمُولِدُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِدُونَ وَالْمُولِدُونِ وَالْمُؤْمِدُونَ والْمُؤْمِدُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِدُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِدُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِدُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِدُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِدُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِلُونَا وَالْمُؤْمِونَا وَالْمُؤْمِونَا وَالْمُؤْمِونَا وَالْمُؤْمِونَا وَالْمُؤْمِونَا وَالْمُؤْمِلُونَا وَالْمُؤْمِونَا وَالْمُؤْمِلُونَا وَالْمُؤْمِونَا وَالْمُعُومُ وَالْمُؤْمِونَا وَالْمُعُلِمُ وَالْمُؤْمِونَا وَالْمُوالِمُونَا وَالْمُؤْم

#### POLICY ON ETHICAL CONDUCT OF RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN PARTICIPANTS



#### **Policy Statement**

The Maldives National University will uphold the highest standards of ethical practice in research involving human participation and personal data. All staff and students including third parties are required to ensure that all their research activities safeguard the dignity, rights, health, safety and privacy of those involved. Further, the University expects all staff, students, third parties and those who conduct research within the university premises to adhere to the principles of ethical research outlined in this policy.

#### **Principles of Ethical Research**

The Maldives National University adopts the principles of ethical research as espoused by the Economic and Social Research Council of UK. They are as follows:

- 1. Research should be designed, reviewed and undertaken to ensure integrity and quality.
- 2. Research staff and subjects must be informed fully about the purpose, methods and intended possible uses of the research, what their participation in the research entails and what risks, if any, are involved. Some variation is allowed in very specific and exceptional research.
- 3. The confidentiality of information supplied by research subjects and the anonymity of respondents must be respected.
- 4. Research participants must participate in a voluntary way, free from any coercion
- 5. Harm to research participants must be avoided.
- 6. The independence of research must be clear, and any conflicts of interest or partiality must be explicit.

The University upholds these principles by (a) educating staff and students on this policy, and (b) requiring all staff and students who conduct research involving human participants to maintain an ethical review process proportionate to the risks involved.

#### **Ethical Review Process**

1. All research conducted by staff and students must be subject to an independent ethical review process.

- 2. There are two levels of committees for review of research ethics proposal: Faculty/Centre level Research Ethics Committee and University Research Ethics Committee (UREC). All projects that originate from the Faculty/Centre should be reviewed at the Faculty Research Ethics Committee.
- 3. The university recognizes that most projects will not pose significant ethical issues and the faculty-level committee may undertake these reviews through a checklist review or other reasonable process. The proposals for review should be made on Research Ethics Review Form A.
- 4. The University Research Ethics Committee will be a referral committee when faculty based ethics committees consider that they are unable to provide the level of review required. In these instances, Research Ethics Review Form B should be used to submit the ethics proposal to the University Research Ethics Committee.
- 5. If the staff and students consider that the outcome of the review at the faculty-based ethics committee is unacceptable, they may appeal to the University Research Ethics Committee using the Research Ethics Review Form B.
- 6. The UREC may review the decisions of a faculty-based committee without referral when there are grounds for further review of a decision.
- 7. The UREC has the responsibility for the implementation of this policy.

#### Roles and Responsibilities

#### Faculty level Ethics Committee

- The faculty level research ethics committee will be the Academic Review Committee
  until the number of postgraduate students comprises 25% of the Faculty enrolment. If
  it is perceived that proper expertise is not available within the Faculty, then with the
  agreement of the Chair of UREC, faculty/centre heads may establish joint research
  ethics committees from the participating Academic Review Committees of other
  faculties/centres.
- 2. The role of the faculty level research ethics committee is to review and consider the ethics review proposals submitted to the committee and to ensure that such research projects adhere to the principles outlined in this policy, university rules and regulations and the international best practices.
- 3. Faculty research ethics committee may conduct meetings through email or other media. However, they are expected to meet once a semester.
- 4. In order to manage workloads and ensure prompt reviews of proposals, faculty level research ethics committees may use delegation strategies including review of proposal by two persons of the committee.

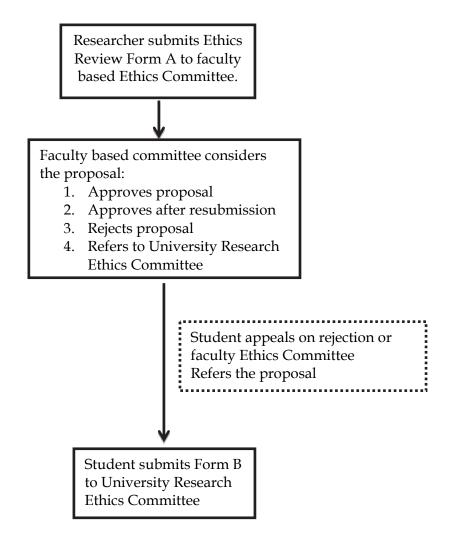
#### **University Research Ethics Committee**

The UREC shall be the Higher Degrees Committee until the number of postgraduate students registered in the university rises over 25% of the total enrolment per annum.

#### Researchers

- 1. All university staff and students are expected to take personal responsibility for educating themselves with this the policy and with the procedures for ethics review.
- 2. Where there are more than one researcher involved in a project, it is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to lead the ethical review process and inform other researchers of the requirements.
- 3. Any major changes to a research project will require resubmission for ethics review.

#### ETHICAL REVIEW PROCESS FLOWCHART





## **Ethics Review Form A**

The purpose of this form is to give the Faculty/Entre Research Ethics Committee sufficient information to make an informed judgment about the ethics of your application.

1. Personal details	,	
Applicant's details		
Date of applicant	1 1	
Full name of applicant		
Contact address		
Phone number		Email
Program of study		Faculty/Centre
Supervisor details		
Principal supervisor		
Current qualifications		
Current employment		Work phone no.
Other personnel involved		
Project details		
Title of the project		
Proposed date of commencement of data collection	1 1	Expected date of completion of data collection / /
Interest in topic		
Is this research being funded		
Authorised official stamp of the organisation.		
2. Details of the project		
a.Research question(s)		
b.Justification		
c. Procedure for recruiting participants and obtaining informed consent		
d.Procedures in which research participants will be involved		

e.Procedures for handling information and materials produced in the course of	
the research	
3. Ethical Issues	
a. Access to participants	
b. Informed consent	
c. Confidentiality	
d. Potential harm to	
Participants' right to decline to participate and right to withdraw:	
(1) Indicate what activities you require participants to do in your study.	
(2) Indicate how much	
f. Arrangements for participants to receive	
g. Use of the information	
h. Conflicts of interest	
i. Procedure for resolution of disputes	
j. Other ethical concerns relevant to the research	
k. Cultural and social considerations	
4. Legal issues	
a. Copyright	
b. Ownership of data or materials produced	
c. Any other legal issue relevant to the research	
d. Place in which the research will be conducted	
e. Has this application in whole	or part previously been declined or approved by another ethics committee?  Yes No
f. For research to be undertake made to that committee?	n at other facilities under the control of another ethics committee, has an application also been  Yes No
g. Is any of this work being used in a thesis to be submitted for a degree at the MNU?	
h. Further conditions	

5. Infor	ming relevant departm	ental head	's			
Is your proposed research about subjects/papers or programmes within the Faculty/Centre of?		☐ Yes	□No			
the	es, have you informed relevant Head (s) of partment?	☐ Yes	□No			
6 Appli	icant agreement					
	icant agreement					
l agree a.	to ensure that the abo those involved in the c		ed procedures concerning the ethical conduct d handling of data.	of this project will be followed by all		
b.	b. in the event of this application being approved, the researcher agrees to inform the Research Ethics Committee of any change subsequently proposed.					
C.	c. to submit for approval any amendments made to the research procedures outlined in this application which affect ethical appraisal of the project.					
Signatur	e of applicant			Date / /		
7. Supe	rvision agreement					
I agree						
a.	that this application ha		eloped with my supervision and has my suppo klist below is included.	ort. I have checked that all the		
b.	<ul> <li>I agree to support the student to follow the above mentioned procedures concerning the ethical conduct of this project.</li> </ul>					
Signatur	e of Principal superviso	r:		Date / /		
Signatur	e of a Co-supervisor:			Date / /		
8. CHEC	CK LIST					
	ubmitting this form to th I these as appendices	e Research	Ethics Committee, please ensure that you ha	ve completed the following and		
Info	Letter(s) to: participants, e.g. children, caregivers, principal, teachers.  Information sheet, introductory letter for each type of participant.  Consent form(s) for each type of participant.  Questionnaire/survey questions/interview questions.  Reference list.  Every page of your ethics application form has been numbered.					



#### Ethics Review Form B

#### **University Research Ethics Committee**

This form is not suitable for research in clinical, medical, or epidemiological fields

For information to assist with the completion of this form, see the staff of PRC. All responses to questions must be provided on this form. Submit completed application to:

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs)
University Research Ethics Committee
The Maldives National University

#### PART A **Project Title** Expected commencement date of this project Expected completion date of this project Chief Supervisor (Person with ultimate responsibility for the research, if not a student) Title Given Name Surname **Staff Position:** Qualification s: Staff ID: Faculty/Centre: Telephone: **Email:** Student Investigator (or if the project is towards a qualification) Title Given Name Surname **Student Number:** Is this research for Dissertation / Masters - thesis / masters coursework / PhD / other? Specify which: **Contact Address:** Telephone: **Email:** (Required) 5. If there is more than one investigator, name the individual, from those listed above, who is the main contact person for the project. If this is a student project, does it require Faculty/Centre approval (e.g. program of study approval)? 6. Yes No If this project requires Faculty/Centre approval (e.g. program of study approval), has it been: a) Submitted Approved ii) Not yet approved

	A follow-up of a previous study?	Yes		No	
					_
details of the institution (if rapproval number of the ear					
What was the title of that stu	dy?				
<b>Sunding</b> s this research being funded	1?	Yes		No	
f 'Yes', please detail amount	and source of funds				
•	s application:		which m	ay assist	the
9		gone a Yes		No	
•					
		oposed resear	ch desigr	n and me	ethods,
AIMS/RESEARCH QUEST	TION				
RESEARCH DESIGN/ME	ГНОDS				
ANTICIPATED OUTCOM	ES				
	tunding s this research being funded s 'Yes', please detail amount TB troject Details Leywords: Provide a list of, committee to understand thi Term:  Cationale and Background of Has the research proposal, in eer review process?  S'Yes', provide details:  Cive a brief plain English de and the anticipated outcome  AIMS / RESEARCH QUEST  CESEARCH DESIGN / METAINTICIPATED OUTCOME  Cotential benefits, risks and a) What are the possible	sthis research being funded?  The roject Details Experience Provide a list of, and definitions for, any technical terms arommittee to understand this application:  Simple Explanate  Cationale and Background for the Project:  Has the research proposal, including design and methodology, underger review process?  The roject Details  Cationale and Background for the Project:  Has the research proposal, including design and methodology, underger review process?  The roject Details  Cationale and Background for the Project:  Has the research proposal, including design and methodology, underger review process?  The roject Details  Cationale and Background for the Project:  Has the research proposal, including design and methodology, underger review process?  The roject Details  Cationale and Background for the Project:  Has the research proposal, including design and methodology, underger review process?  The roject Details  Cationale and Background for the Project:  Has the research proposal, including design and methodology, underger review process?  The roject Details  Cationale and Background for the Project:  Has the research proposal, including design and methodology, underger review process?  The roject Details  Cationale and Background for the Project:  Has the research proposal, including design and methodology, underger review process?  Cationale and Background for the Project:  Has the research proposal, including design and methodology, underger review process?  Cationale and Background for the Project:  Cationale and Background for the Proje	unding s this research being funded?  Yes  Yes', please detail amount and source of funds  B  Toject Details Leywords: Provide a list of, and definitions for, any technical terms and acronyms, formittee to understand this application:  Ferm:  Simple Explanation:  Cationale and Background for the Project:  Last the research proposal, including design and methodology, undergone a Yes eer review process?  FYes', provide details:  Live a brief plain English description of the aims of this project, the proposed researed the anticipated outcomes.  LIMS/RESEARCH QUESTION  LESEARCH DESIGN/METHODS  LINTICIPATED OUTCOMES  Totential benefits, risks and harms  (a) What are the possible benefits of this research?	unding s this research being funded? Yes    "Yes', please detail amount and source of funds  "B  Project Details Leywords: Provide a list of, and definitions for, any technical terms and acronyms, which mommittee to understand this application:  "Em: Simple Explanation:  Lationale and Background for the Project: Last the research proposal, including design and methodology, undergone a Yes er review process?  "Yes', provide details:  Sive a brief plain English description of the aims of this project, the proposed research design and the anticipated outcomes.  LIMS/RESEARCH QUESTION  LESEARCH DESIGN/METHODS  LINTICIPATED OUTCOMES  Cotential benefits, risks and harms  (a) What are the possible benefits of this research?	sthis research being funded? Yes No  'Yes', please detail amount and source of funds  Broject Details  'Eyewords': Provide a list of, and definitions for, any technical terms and acronyms, which may assist ommittee to understand this application:  Ferm:  Simple Explanation:  Lationale and Background for the Project:  Las the research proposal, including design and methodology, undergone a Yes No eer review process?  'Yes', provide details:  Sive a brief plain English description of the aims of this project, the proposed research design and mend the anticipated outcomes.  LAIMS / RESEARCH QUESTION  LESEARCH DESIGN / METHODS  LANTICIPATED OUTCOMES  Cotential benefits, risks and harms  (a) What are the possible benefits of this research?

	(b) What are the possible risks or harms of this research to the participants?
	Outline possible risks or harms. How do the likely benefits of the research justify possible risks to participants?
12.	Participants How many participants do you intend to recruit?
	Describe the expected demographics of participants:
	Age Gender
	Any other Characteristic Nationality
	Additional demographic details:
	(a) Justify the number of participants you intend to recruit. Also consider issues such as: Is this a planned sample or a convenience sample? What number or proportion of people expected to be recruited is likely to participate?
	(b) Are there any screening, inclusion or exclusion criteria for participants Yes  No in this study?
	Describe the criteria. Will these be communicated to participants; if yes, how; if no, why not?
13.	Method of recruitment (Tick only the applicable boxes)
	(a) Email (b) Mail out (c) Letter box drop (d) Advertisement, poster, flyer (e) Recruitment through third party (e.g. via an organisation, professional association, other
	person, etc)  (f) Personal contact  (g) Participants from previous study  (h) Telephone  (i) Snowball sampling (participants recommended to other potential participants)  (j) From a designated public space (e.g. shopping centre, city area, community facility)
14.	Describe the process through which participants will be recruited.  Consider details such as: From where will participants be recruited? How will you obtain contact information for potential participants? E.g. from publicly available information (such as telephone directory) or from private sources (such as organisation or membership list)? Will you be advertising (attach copy of advertisement) mailing or emailing (attach copy of letter), contacting through a work place or through a third party (identify who and how contact will be achieved)? How will participants respond to you or 'sign up' if they wish to participate in this study?
15.	Specific Categories of Participants

	Does the project seek to recruit participants who are: provide a response for each question)		No – will not recruit	Possil coincid recruit oni	lental tment					
(a)	Pregnant Women?				]					
(b)	Minors, i.e. children under 18 years of age? If yes, a copy of Police Report check must be provided.									
(c)	People in dependent or unequal relationships?									
(d)	People highly dependent on medical care who may be unable to give consent?									
(e)	People with a cognitive impairment, an intellectual disability, or mental illness?									
<i>(f)</i>	People who may be involved in illegal activities?									
(g)	People in other countries?				]					
(h)	Will participants be identifiable by their membership of a cultural or minority group?				]					
(i)	People whose primary language is other than Dhivehi?				]					
Dete	Are there any special cultural sensitivities that need to be considered? Are there any licenses or permissions needed for access? How will you take into account the opinions and expectations of participants and their communities about any effects the research may have on them, their post-research welfare and the application of any results of the research? Will this research involve access to, use, collection, or acquisition of any culturally sensitive data or material? Are there any local or cultural factors which make it problematic to comply with ethical standards?									
(a)	banks Does the project involve information sourced from databanks?	Yes		No						
	If 'Yes', state which one(s). Provide a description of the data to be accessed.									
(b)	Will data to be obtained from the databank be individually identifiable or re-identifiable?	Yes		No						
(c)	Will data to be obtained be non-identifiable?	Yes		No						
(d)	Was any form of consent given by the people whose data is being obtained? (If 'Yes', provide a copy of this. If no, justify how access will be obtained)	Yes		No						
(e)	How will privacy and confidentiality of the data be maintained during	ng the res	earch?							

16.

	())	copy of any relevant approvals.	Jilaiti	0115 O1 a	Ji access: Attacii a					
	(g)	Does this research involve linkage of data sets?	Yes		No	o 🗆				
l <b>7.</b>	Priv	racy Protection								
	(a)	Is this research relevant to public health or safety, or to the management, funding or monitoring of a health service?	Yes		No	Go to Qn 18				
		<i>If 'Yes'</i> , does the research involve the collection, use or disclosure of information from a private sector organisation?	Yes		No	Go to Qn				
		<i>If 'Yes'</i> , will you be collecting, using or disclosing health information	Yes		No	Go to Qn				
		<i>If 'Yes'</i> , will consent be obtained from the individuals to whom the health information relates?	Yes		No					
18.	Desc	cedures cribe the procedures to which participants will be subjected or the tasks th cribe step by step what is being asked of your participants.	ey wil	l be ask	xed to ca	arry out.				
	If the be co line parti mini	consider here:  e project involves research on institutions or workplaces, give details about the local project involves research on institutions or workplaces, give details about the local project in the end of the particular project. It is there any existing relationship between the researcher and the particular project in the particular project on placement, consultant, current or recent employee)? We icipants (e.g. their level of seniority or employment security in the institution in the institution of the project of the	cipants That is 1 or u any 1	the state orkplace to the state orkplace to the state of	acher, su tus of th e)? How the org	pervisor or e proposed w will you				
	Atta	ach copies of all instruments, surveys, interview questions, questionnaires	. etc.							
10	Data		, 656.							
(a)	Will	photographs be taken? otographs or video-recordings include identifiable or personal data, consent shoul	Yes d be ob		] N or their 1					
(b)		video-recordings be made? sider what will be done with any video or tape recordings - short term and long te	Yes rm. Pr		] N formatio					
(c)	Will	interviews or focus groups be tape-recorded?	Yes		N	o 🗌				
(d)		the photographs, videos or audio-recordings be made available to icipants for checking? If yes, give details.	Yes	s [	] N	Іо 🗌				

	Will participants be able to give feedback on or edit any transcripts or tapes? Will participants have any later opportunity to agree on any excerpts or quotes to be used in publications? Describe what photographs will be taken and why. Will people be identifiable from the photographs?									
20.	<b>Data Analysis</b> Explain how the information or data will be analysed, including any statistical tests or qualitative analyses (simply referring to a software package is not sufficient here).									
21.	<b>Disclosure and consent:</b> Explain how participants will <u>consent</u> to participate in this study and how the	y are ir	nforme	d of their ri	ghts.					
	Where alternate forms of consent are requested, outline in detail the procobtained, e.g. return of an anonymous survey, recorded consent for an interproject involves participants who may have difficulty understanding Engliestablished?	view,	verbal	agreement.	If the					
	Attach copies of your Information Sheet and Consent Form or script for oral c	onsent	proces	ses.						
(a)	Does the project collect information from which individual participants can be identified?	Yes		No						
	If yes, could the research be conducted using non-identifiable information?	Yes		No						
(b)	Does this project use any form of implicit or passive consent?	Yes		No						
(c)	Will there be any deception of participants including limited disclosure, concealment and covert observation?	Yes		No						
	If 'Yes' to any of these, please provide detailed justification:									
<b>22.</b> (a)	Intrusiveness  Please answer all questions in this section  Are there any aspects of the study that are intrusive in areas ordinarily considered personal and private, or that could create apprehension and anxiety for participants?	Yes		No						
(b)	Are you collecting personal details or private information?	Yes		No						
(c)	Is there any kind of dependency relationship between the researcher and any of the participants? (e.g. if you are both clinician and researcher, if you are both class teacher and researcher, if you are personal friend and researcher, if you are a member of an identifiable group and researching the group). How will you ensure that the relationship does not impair participants' free and voluntary consent and participation in the project?	Yes		No						
(d)	Could your research evoke anxiety or lead to the recall of painful memories?	Yes		No						

(e)	Will participants be asked to provide any information or commit any act, which might diminish self-respect or cause them to experience shame, embarrassment or regret?	Yes		No	
(f)	Will any procedure be used which may have an unpleasant or harmful side effect?	Yes		No	
(g)	Does the research use any stimuli, tasks, or procedures, which may be experienced by subjects as stressful, noxious, or unpleasant?	Yes		No	
(h)	Will you induce or create physical pain beyond mild discomfort?	Yes		No	
	If you have responded 'Yes' to any of the above, explain how you will address the issues If adverse consequences are possible, describe these and explain the risk management interviews may cause distress provide details of support processes that will be put in pl	proces			
23.	Reimbursement				
23.	Is any reimbursement, payment, inducement or other reward being offered to participants in the study?	Yes		No	
	If 'Yes', state what will be offered, to what amount or value and for what purpose (e.g. reimbursement to cover expenses etc).	a vouci	her as a pri	ze,	
24.	Feedback and Research Outcomes  Research outcomes should be made accessible to participants in a way that is timely and What feedback will be given to participants? How will feedback be given?  How do you plan to make the outcomes of the research more widely available web page, book, etc.)?			nal pap	er,
<b>25.</b> (a)	Data Storage  During the Study:  How and where will data be stored during the study? How will data security by	e man	aged?		
(b)	Following the Study: Describe the data which will be stored. Will any individually identifiable data be stored?	Yes		No	
	Will data be utilised for any future research or potentially be made available to other researchers? If 'Yes', describe what data, whether or not individually identifiable, and what consider participant consent.		las been gi	No ven to	
	When and how will data be disposed of?				

*Include here issues such as:* 

- Are there any competing interests or possible conflicts of interest?
- Are there any restrictions on publications resulting from this study?
  - Are there any risks involved to any member of the research team that have not already been addressed?
  - If a researcher will be working in remote locations, provide information on how the researcher's personal safety will be maintained.
  - If a researcher will be entering participants' homes or private properties, provide information on how the researcher's personal safely will be maintained.

If 'Yes', please explain in more detail.		

#### **DECLARATION**

This application form must be signed by the Chief Investigator / Principal Supervisor who has been named on the front page and who accepts the legal and ethical responsibilities associated with this research project. Signatures of all Co-investigators and Student Investigators must also be provided if the project is a joint one. If the form is filled by a student for an award, the ultimate responsibility for ethics lies with the student.

I have read and will abide by the MNU's policies dealing with research and ethics.

I declare that I and all participating researchers on this project will abide by the terms of ethics code. I accept the legal and ethical responsibilities associated with this research

Chief Investiga	tor/Supervisor/Student if for an awa	rd
Name: (please print)	Given Name	Surname
Signature:		Date:
Co-investigator	r(s)	
Name: (please print)	Given Name	Surname
Signature:		Date:
Student Researc		
Name: (please print)	Given Name	Surname
Signature:		Date:
A(1	Decree Head of Contra	
	Dean or Head of Centre	1: () 11 ()
	project to proceed in the School of	subject to approval by the
MNU's Researc	h Ethics Committee.	
	Given Name	Surname
Name:		
(please print)		
Signature:		Date: