



## HUA IRB Newsletter - November 2021

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### Things to Know

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#### PIPL – New Information Posted

On November 1, 2021, China's Personal Information Protection Law (PIPL) will go into effect. Yep, that's today! While there remain many details that need to be sorted through, additional resources have been posted on Harvard's Research Data Management website here - <https://researchdatamanagement.harvard.edu/news/personal-information-protection-law-people%E2%80%99s-republic-china>

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#### URTP – What You Need to Know

Undergraduate students at Harvard are encouraged to become deeply involved in the research life of the University. There is a vast array of opportunities for students at all experience levels to participate in academic inquiry, from research assistantships to independent projects. Frequently, these research projects involve interactions with and/or identifiable data about human beings as participants. While some undergraduate-initiated

research activities that involve human participants require approval by the IRB many others do not.

Previously, the IRB provided oversight for these projects regardless of whether the activity meets the requirements for IRB review by the federal regulations. This applied to projects assigned by the instructor of a course as part of the curriculum (i.e., Course Projects), and to projects undertaken independently for thesis or other reasons. While the previous process provided a mechanism to ensure that the proposed project included appropriate precautions for protecting human subjects, what was lacking was a comprehensive platform to create better undergraduate researchers.

So now that you know the background, here is what we did -

We created the Undergraduate Research Training Program (known as “the “URTP”). The URTP is a comprehensive platform to create better-prepared undergraduate researchers. It is comprised of research ethics training sessions, a student-focused curriculum, and an online decision form that will assist students in determining whether their project requires IRB review.

You can find out more about this program and all the available resources here - <https://cuhs.harvard.edu/urtp-portal>

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## URTP In-Person Training Dates

An integral part of the URTP is in-person training. URTP in-person training provides instruction for best practices for conducting ethical research, an overview of human subject protections, and additional resources that may be helpful to the undergraduate researcher.

By attending an in-person session, the undergraduate researcher can ask questions, engage with other students, and learn about human subject regulations and how to apply them to your research.

Please know that all in-person training will be held via Zoom until further notice.

In-person training is held at various times during the academic year. The most recent training dates may be found here - <https://cuhs.harvard.edu/news/fall-2021-undergraduate-research-training-dates-announced>

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## Recruiting from Harvard Guidelines

Harvard students, faculty, and staff are often the focus of research participation by Harvard researchers as well as those from other universities and institutions. The Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences in conjunction with the Harvard University Area IRB office has adopted a new set of guidelines for recruiting those affiliated with Harvard. This was done in the interest to limit the research burden placed on these populations, protecting the privacy of those affiliated with Harvard University, and being respectful of their time.

You can access the guidelines here - [https://cuhs.harvard.edu/recruiting-study-volunteers-harvard-university-community?admin\\_panel=1](https://cuhs.harvard.edu/recruiting-study-volunteers-harvard-university-community?admin_panel=1)

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## ESTR Not Available this Weekend

The Electronic Submission Tracking & Reporting system, also known as “ESTR”, will be unavailable this weekend from Friday, November 5th at 7:00 p.m. through Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. During this time, ESTR, along with the other systems found in the Research Compliance Suite, will have a major upgrade that will include navigation enhancements, SmartForm revisions, and updates to notifications and background activities. You can find detailed release notes here - [https://ras.fss.harvard.edu/files/ras/files/1.26.0\\_release\\_notes\\_-\\_all\\_applications.pdf](https://ras.fss.harvard.edu/files/ras/files/1.26.0_release_notes_-_all_applications.pdf)

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# Do You Speak IRB?



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## Principal Investigator Eligibility

From our website:

The basis for determining who is eligible to be a Principal Investigator (PI) is grounded in who may receive funds through a grant, contract, or other funding mechanisms on behalf of the University.

Who may be listed on an IRB application follows these same guidelines however there are exceptions. Those who are not PI eligible may still serve as a PI on an IRB application however there must also be a faculty sponsor listed. This is particularly true when the PI on the IRB application is a student.

PI eligibility is generally delegated to the Schools that have developed eligibility criteria for their faculty as well as specific procedures for granting exceptions to their criteria. Interested in knowing more? The following link will provide you with the relevant policies to who may serve as a PI as well as the process to grant an exception to these policies - <https://cuhs.harvard.edu/am-I-PI-eligible>

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**From all of us at the HUA IRB, Be Well and Stay Healthy!**

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**Harvard University Area IRB**

44-R Brattle Street, Suite 200 (2nd floor)

Cambridge, MA 02138

Email: [cuhs@harvard.edu](mailto:cuhs@harvard.edu)

Phone: (617) 496-2847

Web: <https://cuhs.harvard.edu/>