

**Extracts of the  
Statute of the Ethics Committee [Ethikkommission] of the University of Mannheim  
[as of December 15<sup>th</sup> 2016 last amended Mai 26<sup>st</sup> 2021]**

*Please note: This document contains the most relevant sections for researchers planning an application to the Ethics Committee. This translation is provided by the Ethics Committee. It does not constitute an official translation!*

(...)

**§ 2 Tasks and principles of the activities of the Ethics Committee**

(1) The Ethics Committee shall provide assistance to scientists by advising on and assessing ethical and, where appropriate, legal aspects of research involving human subjects, research involving personal data and security-related research. It shall also perform the tasks assigned by law to an ethics committee in accordance with the relevant laws, regulations and statutes. It is also responsible in cases which, for legal or ethical reasons, require a security evaluation by an ethics committee. The Ethics Committee promotes awareness of ethical and security-related aspects of research within the university.

(2) Regardless of the advice of the Ethics Committee, the scientist remains responsible for his or her actions.

(3) The Ethics Committee reports once a year, if necessary in an appropriately anonymous form, to the Senate of the University of Mannheim and, if security-relevant research is concerned, to the "Joint Committee for Handling Security-relevant Research" of the German Research Foundation [Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft] and the National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina (hereinafter: "Joint Committee") on its activities.

(4) The Ethics Committee works on the basis of the applicable law and scientific standards as well as the relevant professional rules. It takes into account relevant national and international recommendations, and with regard to security-relevant research, in particular the "Recommendations for Handling Security-relevant Research" of the German Research Foundation and the Leopoldina. Its activities are based on the current state of science and technology.

(5) The following provisions apply subject to any deviating regulation and to higher-ranking law.

(...)

## **§ 6 Opening of proceedings**

(1) Members of the University of Mannheim shall seek advice from the Ethics Committee prior to the implementation of research projects in the following cases:

1. research projects on humans

- (a) which involve health or psychological stress or risks
- (b) by which strong emotions, such as disgust, anger or fear, are triggered
- (c) where subjects have to report traumatic experiences,
- (d) in which the self-image of the subjects is significantly compromised by manipulation,
- (e) into which minors will be integrated,
- (f) in which participants are deliberately deceived; or
- (g) which are ethically problematic for other reasons;

2. research projects involving personal data;

3. research projects presenting significant risks to human dignity, life, health, freedom, property, the environment or a peaceful coexistence, in particular scientific work likely to generate knowledge, products or technologies that can be directly misused by third parties. Sentence 1 shall apply accordingly if aspects within the meaning of numbers 1 to 3 only become apparent during the performance of a research project.

(2) The Ethics Committee shall act upon written application by members of the University of Mannheim (applicant).

(3) The applicant may amend or withdraw his application.

(4) The application shall contain a brief summary of the project in a manner that is understandable to laypersons and, in cases under para. 1, first sentence, number 3, a detailed description of the safety-relevant aspects of the project. It shall be accompanied by a statement as to whether and if so, where and with what result applications of the same or similar content have already been submitted previously or simultaneously.

(5) The Ethics Committee may also treat notices from third parties with regard to security-relevant research. Confidentiality under Section 7, para. 2 shall also apply to such notices. The Ethics Committee is not obliged to investigate anonymous notices.

(6) In cases under Section 2, para. 1, sentences 2 and 3, the Ethics Committee may act ex officio.

(...)