



Standard Operating Procedures
Research Ethics Committee (Human) (REC-H)

- **Guidelines for umbrella projects**

REC-H Chairperson, Dr Dalray Gradidge
Email: dalray.gradidge@mandela.ac.za
Tel: 041 504 2511

1 GUIDELINES FOR UMBRELLA PROJECTS

1. Umbrella projects may be defined as large (un)sponsored, national/ international research projects including Honours and/or undergraduate group research projects, in which humans are the subjects of research. Engagement with the chairperson is suggested if further clarity is required.
2. An umbrella research project:
 - a. Is a broad research project under which a number of smaller, independent research projects fall.
 - b. Is a project in which a number of individual Masters (treatise and research) and Doctoral students collaborate, with each individual Masters and Doctoral student conducting research to realise at least one objective of the umbrella research project. It is understood that the names of the Masters and Doctoral students involved in the project may not be available at the time of application. An application for an umbrella research project (form RECH-003/U) is required.
 - c. Requires that the individual Masters and Doctoral students submit independent ethics applications (attached to form RECH-003/S¹, sub-studies) for their parts of the umbrella project (i.e. independent proposal, data collection instruments etc.). This could therefore happen concurrently with or after approval of an existing umbrella project.
 - d. Is also advised for groups of undergraduate, PGDip and/or Honours students undertaking small research projects. An application for an umbrella research project (form RECH-003/U) is required. In this case, individual sub-studies must be submitted for approval on a form RECH-003/S as supporting documentation for form RECH-003/U, either individually or as a group submission of sub-studies (only if data collection procedures and instruments of such studies are significantly similar).
3. Researchers are advised to familiarise themselves with the [New-Umbrella-Project-Ethics-Application guidelines and instructions](#) prior to completing and submitting a relevant request for an umbrella or associated sub-study. Failure to do so might result in a delay in the review and approval of the request.

¹ Completion and submission of RECH-003/S merely serves for the purpose of obtaining an independent ethics number per student