

Ethics Principles & Procedures

INPhINIT respects fundamental ethics principles, including those reflected in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ¹ and the relevant ethics rules of H2020. These principles include the need to ensure the freedom of research and the need to protect the physical and moral integrity of individuals and the welfare of animals.

INPhINIT follows a **bottom-up approach**, thus it is not be known in advance if the fellowships to be funded raise ethical issues. It is for this reason that "la Caixa" Foundation (FBLC) establishes a procedure to identify any potential ethics issues and to handle the ethics aspects raised.

As part of the application documentation, candidates will submit a statement of purpose, i.e. a description of their research interests including a first reasoned selection of the opened positions offered by the host organisations. After joining their host organisations, **"la Caixa" Foundation will request fellows to write a research project proposal**. Research projects that may involve ethical issues will be sent to the **Ethics Committee** ² for a deeper analysis. To complete this information, **a form regarding ethical aspects** will be required for those candidates who are fellowship recipients.

In the same way, early-stage researchers will follow their **institutions' own action protocol** for ethical issues in order to assure compliance with ethical principles and applicable legislation. Moreover, host organisations will offer **courses on ethics issues** related to the research areas of candidates. Host organisations will make sure that ethics protocols are followed while researchers are on secondment.

FBLC will monitor the researchers' work by means of periodically monitoring reports, in which researchers will detail their key achievements and future goals, plus information about any ethics issues that may arise. Candidates will fill up an ethics table and will provide an explanation of any ethics issues detected and how they intend to deal with them.

In this way, FBLC will ensure that any research which does not respect the ethical principles will not be funded.

¹ Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, 2000/C 364/01.
See also http://www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/default_en.htm

² The Ethics Committee is part of the University of Barcelona and will work in the framework of an agreement between FBLC and the University of Barcelona. (<http://www.ub.edu/recerca/comissioibioetica.htm>)



ETHICS ISSUES

Any potential ethics issues must be identified. Please check the following table.

In case that your experimentation includes humans, animals or biological samples of human origin please attach the documentation listed after the ethics issues table and detail in which document and page, the explanation is detailed.

1. HUMAN EMBRYOS/FOETUSES / EMBRYONS/FETUS	YES/NO	Document/ Page
<i>Does your research involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?</i>		
<i>Does your research involve the use of human embryos?</i>		
<i>Does your research involve the use of human fetal tissues / cells?</i>		
2. HUMANS	YES/NO	Document/ Page
<i>Does your research involve human participants?</i>		
<i>Does your research involve physical interventions on the study participants?</i>		
<i>Does it involve invasive techniques?</i>		
3. HUMAN CELLS / TISSUES / CÈL·LULES / TEIXITS HUMANS	YES/NO	Document/ Page
<i>Does your research involve human cells or tissues?</i>		
4. PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA	YES/NO	Document/ Page
<i>Does your research involve personal data collection and/or processing?</i>		
<i>Does your research involve further processing of previously collected personal data (secondary use)?</i>		
5. ANIMALS	YES/NO	Document/ Page
<i>Does your research involve animals?</i>		



6. NON-EU COUNTRIES	YES/NO	Document/ Page
<i>Does your research involve non-EU countries?</i>		
<i>Do you plan to use local resources (e.g. animal and/or human tissue samples, genetic material, live animals, human remains, materials of historical value, endangered fauna or flora samples, etc.)?</i>		
<i>Do you plan to import any material - including personal data - from non-EU countries into the EU?</i>		
<i>Do you plan to export any material - including personal data - from the EU to non-EU countries?</i>		
<i>Could the situation in the country put the individuals taking part in the research at risk?</i>		
<i>If your research involves low and/or lower middle income countries, are benefits-sharing measures foreseen?</i>		
7. ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION	YES/NO	Document/ Page
<i>Does your research involve the use of elements that may cause harm to the environment, to animals or plants?</i>		
<i>Does your research deal with endangered fauna and/or flora and/or protected areas?</i>		
<i>Does your research involve the use of elements that may cause harm to humans, including research staff?</i>		
8. DUAL USE	YES/NO	Document/ Page
<i>Does your research have the potential for military applications?</i>		
9. MISUSE	YES/NO	Document/ Page
<i>Does your research have the potential for malevolent/criminal/terrorist abuse?</i>		



10. OTHER ETHICS ISSUES	YES/NO	Document/ Page
<i>Are there any other ethics issues that should be taken into consideration? Please specify</i>		

I confirm that I have taken into account all ethics issues described above.

Date and signature:

Documentation to be attached:

- Statement of compliance indicating that the confidentiality of the data that may be obtained in the project will be scrupulously observed
- Statement of compliance indicating that the samples will not be used for or ceded for use in other studies
- Scanned copy of the favourable report issued by the Animal Experimentation Ethics Committee (CEEA). (Only if the project involves animal experimentation)
- Scanned copy of the favourable report from the Research Ethics Committee of the Faculty/School/other where the experimentation will take place or that will provide the samples. If not applicable, please submit the following information:
 - o Detailed information that will be supplied to volunteers involved in testing (the model of the project information document, the consent form that will be used, and the procedure for obtaining consent). A model informed consent form is available on CBUB web page: www.ub.edu/recerca/comissioetico.htm /
 - o Scanned copy of the request form releasing the samples to a specific researcher (naming the researcher) and for a specific project (naming the project). (Only if the project involves the use of biological samples of human origin that are deposited in a biological bank or that are part of a collection of samples for the purposes of biomedical research and preserved outside the organizational sphere of a biological bank)

