



Monthly newsletter

December 2016

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Important AEC Information

Monitoring Sheets

The AEC have requested that all relevant Monitoring Sheets accompany all applications submitted to the Animal Ethics Committee (AEC).

The 3 R's (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement)

(Information Courtesy of the Animal Ethics Infolink, <http://www.animaethics.org.au/three-rs>)

In 1959, the report by Russell and Burch was published as 'The Principles of Humane Experimental Techniques', the basic tenet of their report being that "the humanest possible treatment of experimental animals, far from being an obstacle, is actually a prerequisite for a successful animal experiment."

The authors proposed the principles of Replacement, Reduction and Refinement (most often referred to as the 3R's) as the key strategies to provide a systematic framework to achieve the goal of humane experimental techniques. Today throughout the world the principles of the 3R's are embedded in legislation which governs the use of animals in science.

FRAME has produced an excellent chart on strategies to achieve the 3R's when planning projects which may involve the use of animals. Contact [FRAME](#) for more information.

[Replacement](#)
[Reduction](#)
[Refinement](#)

It is a requirement of all protocols that you implement the principles of the 3 R's (*Reduction, Refinement and Replacement*).



Tips and hints for your applications



Don't forget if you are going to perform a highly specialised technique include the details of who will complete the procedure, plus their relevant training and experience.

Research Animal Care and Ethics Training (RACE) / Training Opportunities

Who should complete the Training?

Everyone performing animal based research at Macquarie University or under a Macquarie University AEC protocol must have proof of attendance at an animal ethics course. All Macquarie University employees and students must complete RACE training, no matter what their level of experience; and a certificate is issued after completing RACE training. New researchers, students, graduates and post-graduates with minimal animal research experience must complete the training as soon as possible. **New researchers will not be added to Animal Research Authorities until the training is done.**

More experienced researchers will also be asked to complete RACE training or updates irrespective of level of seniority. All Animal Care and Ethics training certificates are deemed to be valid for a period of three (3) years only.

Program objectives:

The overall aim of this program is to provide personnel using animals for scientific purposes with the knowledge and practical skills to ensure:

- compliance with the legislation
- humane animal use
- ethical animal use
- minimisation of risks associated with the use of animals

Presentation:

The program consists of on-line learning and practical sessions. Participants may participate in or attend all/any of the modules. However, it should be noted that some modules are prerequisites for other modules.

Research Animal Care and Ethics Training Course via [iLearn](#)

Program outline and structure:

MODULE 1: Introduction to the use of animals in research

Description:	On-line course covering the legislative and institutional requirements governing the use of animals for research and teaching at the Macquarie University, and the principles and practice of animal care and welfare.
Prerequisite:	Working or studying in areas in which animals are used for research or teaching purposes.
Delivery type:	Online only via iLearn .
Availability:	Continuous
Assessment:	On-line quiz which must be completed before proceeding to other modules
Additional information:	This module is administered through the Animal Ethics Office.



MODULE 2: Research animal care, handling, and basic research procedures.

Description:	Practical and online course concentrating on rats and mice. The module covers basic anatomy and physiology, handling and restraint, administration of substances (injection and gavage), blood collection, euthanasia and post mortem techniques. All participants have the opportunity to obtain "hands-on" experience with the demonstrated techniques.
Prerequisite:	Working or studying in areas in which animals are used for research or teaching purposes. Ideally Module 1 should have been completed prior to attending Module 2, however this is not mandatory.
Delivery type:	Online via iLearn , plus a 4 hour practical session.
Additional information:	This module is administered and run through the Central Animal Facility.

MODULE 3: Anaesthetic Techniques in Research Animals

Description:	Online learning combined with a practical session demonstrating the principles and techniques involved in rodent anaesthesia. Topics covered include gaseous and injectable anaesthesia; pre-anaesthetic assessment, monitoring and assessment of anaesthetic depth, and OHS issues associated with anaesthesia. All participants will have the opportunity to obtain "hands-on" experience with the basic techniques.
Prerequisite:	Completion of Module 2 or equivalent experience.
Delivery type:	Online via iLearn , plus a 4 hour practical session.
Additional information:	This module is administered and run through the Central Animal Facility.

MODULE 4: Aseptic surgical techniques in research animals

Description:	Online and practical session for researchers who will be performing surgery on animals. Areas covered include instrument identification and use, suture selection and use, aseptic technique (including preparation of the facilities, equipment, animal and surgeon), making incisions, handling tissues, haemostasis, and wound closure techniques.
Prerequisite:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Completion of Module 3 or equivalent experience.2. Viewing of Introductory Videos. Prior to commencement of the practical session for Module 4, participants must have viewed the introductory videos on the "Principles of aseptic surgery", and "Laparotomy in the rat". Information about access to these videos is provided once you have enrolled in the module.
Delivery type:	Online via iLearn , plus a practical session.
Additional information:	This module is administered and run through the Central Animal Facility.

Registration

1. A Macquarie One ID number is required to access to the RACE course.
2. In the event that you do not have a Macquarie One ID number, a number will need to be assigned for each new researcher to be given access to this course via iLearn.
3. The Supervisor/Primary Investigator must email Macquarie University Informatics at onehelp@mq.edu.au in order to apply for a MQG or MQX One ID number for these new researchers.
4. **Register** for Module 1 of the course (*entirely online*) via the Animal Welfare Officer: Please forward your One ID number, as well as your full name and email address to the AWO, Dr Justin Clarke at animal.ethics@mq.edu.au.
5. **Register** for Practical Modules - 2015 "RACE Training" via [Registration Form](#).

Please contact the AWO for any further training requirements.



Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines

All Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines can be found on our [Animal Ethics Wiki page](#).

Animal Ethics Calendar

Next Application submission deadline date 2017

Wednesday, 25 January 2017

Next Animal Ethics Committee Meeting date 2017

Thursday 16 February 2017

Animal Ethics Committee Meeting dates

See the [Animal Ethics Website](#) or the [Animal Ethics Wiki Page](#).

2017

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS	MEETING DATE
Wednesday 25 January 2017	Thursday 16 February 2017
Thursday 23 February 2017	Thursday 16 March 2017**
Monday 20 March 2017	Wednesday 12 April 2017
Thursday 27 April 2017	Thursday 18 May 2017**
Thursday 25 May 2017	Thursday 22 June 2017
Thursday 29 June 2017	Thursday 20 July 2017**
Thursday 27 July 2017	Thursday 17 August 2017**
Thursday 24 August 2017	Thursday 21 September 2017
Thursday 28 September 2017	Thursday 19 October 2017**
Thursday, 26 October 2017	Thursday 16 November 2017**
Friday 24 November 2017	Thursday 14 December 2017

* **The closing date for submissions is approximately two to three weeks before each meeting.** This is essential to allow adequate time for processing and review of submissions by the AEC prior to meetings. It also provides opportunity for researchers to respond to questions or comments from the Committee prior to meetings, thereby potentially reducing the time to approval. Questions and comments are distributed to applicants on the Monday of the week of the meeting.

** **An inspection of animal facilities will be held on the day of the AEC meeting on the dates highlighted above (unless otherwise stated).** It is a requirement under the *NHMRC Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes 8th edition (2013)* that inspections of facilities used for animal research, housing and teaching are carried out on a regular basis. Under the *Macquarie University AEC Terms of Reference* the AEC will carry out facility inspections twice per year.



Notices and news

Lab Animal:

Lab Animal is a monthly research journal publishing peer-reviewed articles on methods and technology for improved disease models and enhanced welfare. The journal also publishes timely and authoritative columns and perspectives on all aspects of lab animal science and animal models of disease.

Link: <http://www.labanimal.com/labanimal/index.html>

New JoVE videos of interest:

The Journal of Visualized Experiments has some interesting and exciting articles this month. For the most recent articles see: <https://www.jove.com/about/press-releases>

Contributions

If you would like to contribute to the Animal Ethics monthly newsletter, kindly email that content for the next month's newsletter to animal.ethics@mq.edu.au.

Should you have any queries regarding your research, please do not hesitate to contact:

Animal Ethics Team

Animal.ethics@mq.edu.au, +61 (0) 2 9850 7758 / +61 (0) 439 497 383

Alternatively, for more information about AEC policies, procedures, forms and ethical clearance requirements, please go to our webpage at http://research.mq.edu.au/current_research_staff/animal_research_ethics