

Ethical Guidelines Internship/Field Work/Thesis

In carrying out your Master thesis project as a student at the Human Rights Studies MA Programme you must comply fully with Swedish law and with codes of conduct regarding research ethics. This includes the guidelines on good research practice developed by The Swedish Research Council¹ and regulations at Lund University² and covers all stages of the research process, from gathering material to making research results public. Before initiating interviews, observations, or other kind of data collection you must consult your supervisor.

Always introduce yourself, your master student status and affiliation, your supervisor and thesis topic, when making contact with for example scholars or interviewees. Please remember that you are a master student and that the master's thesis is an examination thesis and part of your studies. Voluntary and informed consent must be obtained from respondents and others who are participating in your project.

We strongly advise against interviewing or in any other way including minors or persons in vulnerable positions in your study.

If your data includes ethically sensitive personal information, as specified in the General Data Protection Regulation³, or if your project in other ways is considered ethically sensitive, it might require ethical review, as specified by the Act (SFS 2003:460) concerning the Ethical Review of Research Involving Humans, which is a costly and time consuming process. Again, consult your supervisor in advance.

If you study a private company, you need to ask its permission. Never work undercover. Never offer money, substantial gifts, or other advantages to people you interview or get in touch with during your thesis project.

¹ The Swedish Research Council *Good Research Practice*.

https://www.vr.se/download/18.5639980c162791bbfe697882/1555334908942/Good-Research-Practice_VR_2017.pdf (accessed May 16 2025). The new edition 2024 is being translated into English during the autumn 2025

² Lund University Research ethics information, <https://www.researchethics.lu.se>.

³ IMY Swedish Authority for Privacy Protection <https://www.imy.se/en/organisations/data-protection/this-applies-according-to-gdpr/> (accessed May 16 2025)