MRC/UVRI and LSHTM Uganda Research Unit

Document Title	Data Access Policy for students		
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Author(s)	Ayoub Kakande
Authorized by	Moffat Nyirenda

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Data Access Policy for students - Version: 1.0. Index: MULDMPQ 18. Printed: 19-Aug-2025 11:26

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Author(s): Ayoub Kakande

Data Access Policy for Postgraduate (MSc, MA, PGD) and Undergraduate college students.

Background

The general MRC/UVRI and LSHTM Uganda Research Unit policy on data sharing and access https://apps.mrcuganda.org/mrcdatavisibility/Home/DataShare defines terms under which a bonafide researcher can access data generated from the Unit studies.

The 2016 Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) Research Registration and Clearance Policy and Guidelines requires that research by students (i.e. college, undergraduate and masters) registered in an educational institution in Uganda, which presents no more than minimal risk to humans and the environment, should be appropriately documented and reviewed by the student's supervisors/head of department and, where applicable, a local REC. Student research that presents more than minimal risk to humans and the environment, and which may involve hazardous substances, should be registered with and approved by UNCST. For the avoidance of doubt, this does not apply to doctoral and post-doctoral students and students pursuing other forms of study such as fellowships. The local REC and or the students' Head of Department is required to submit to UNCST a list of all approved students' research protocols prior to commencement of the studies. The list shall include; Name(s) of student(s), subject of research assignments, area in which research is to be done, duration of the research, estimated budget and source of funds, and Name(s) of supervisor(s)".

Guidance

This addendum provides guidance concerning research that present no more than minimal risk to humans and the environment and conducted by students from foreign academic institutions/Universities such as LSHTM among others. Details are provided in the table below.

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Source of data	Step1	Step 2	Step 3
Primary collection (1)	Unit PI approves embedment of the student research questions in their study. Student research supervisor is known and approval from mother University availed.	If any of the student research objectives in the hosting study is not part of those originally approved by local ethics committees and UNCST, a protocol amendment must be submitted otherwise follow secondary (existing data)- 2 route below	Work with the Unit head of data management to ensure compliance with data collection standards. Additional support and or guidance can be obtained from the Research Governance Department.
Secondary (existing data)-1	If the primary study is completed and beyond the period of exclusive data use (defined in the Unit data sharing policy), a student receives ethics approval from their institution or University. Checks for availability of the data from the Unit website or with the PI if not yet on the web.	Submit a proposal to a local ethics committee and UNCST to obtain approval.	If approved, follow the Unit data access policy, i.e. submit a data request to the Unit independent data access committee. Receive the dataset and analyse.
Secondary (existing data)-2	If the study is ongoing or completed but within the period of exclusive data use and the student research objectives are part of the original ones that received ethical approval, the student liaises with the study PI to access the data. If the period of exclusive data use elapses before a student has completed her analysis, the student will contact the Unit independent data access committee for guidance.		

Exceptions

In an event that a student circumstance does not belong to any of the guidance above, the Unit independent data access committee shall be contacted.

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Abbreviations

MRC	Medical Research Council
UVRI	Uganda Virus Research Institute
LSHTM	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
UNCST	Uganda National Council for Science and Technology
MSc	Master of Science
MA	Master of Arts
PI	Principal Investigator

References

- UNCST: Research Registration and Clearance Policy and Guidelines, July 2016
- MRC/UVRI&LSHTM Uganda Research Unit: Data Sharing Policy, May 2024

Revision history

Version number	Replaces	Reason/description of change
1.0 Jan 205	None	None

Approval

		Name	Signature	Date
Author		Andrew Abaasa Head of Statistics and Data		
Reviewers	1	Dr Kimbugwe Geofrey Head of Research Governance		
	2	Ayoub Kakande Head of Data Management and chair IDAC committee		
Approved by: the Unit Director		Prof. Nyirenda Moffat Unit Director		

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Document Revision History

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Authorisation

This document was securely signed and authorised by:

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