GRSC6029/6030/6031/6032/6033 Research Ethics for Graduate Students

Aim:
The aim of this course is to reinforce the importance that the University of Hong Kong places on the preservation of the values and principles of research integrity in all research conducted at the university.

Content:
The value and benefits of research are vitally dependent on the integrity of the research. To ensure the trustworthiness of research, researchers should abide by principles of honesty, accountability, professional courtesy and fairness, and good stewardship in the conduct and publication of their work.

In this course, students will learn essential vocabulary, principles, and practices conducive to the promotion of research integrity in general and in their relevant disciplines.   Students can expect to encounter terminology, texts, and tenets that relate to good conduct in the teaching and research professions.

Approaches to these topics will vary according to the research discipline. Five Research Ethics courses (GRSC6029/6030/6031/6032/6033) are offered for graduate students to select according to the Faculties they belong.

Organization:
This course comprises twelve hours (six 2-hour classes). The class will normally include a brief lecture and an in-class, case-based discussion.

GRSC6029 Research Ethics for Graduate Students (Faculties of Business & Economics, Education, Law and Social Sciences)
This course covers the international standards associated with the conduct of human-subject research, with a particular focus on survey, ethnographic, archival, and qualitative research. Topics also covered include issues of authorship, mentoring, and professional ethics for academics in the university.

GRSC6030 Research Ethics for Graduate Students (Faculties of Arts and Architecture)
This course covers major texts, tenets, and topics pertinent to conducting ethical research in the creative academic disciplines, such as arts, humanities and architectures.

GRSC6031 Research Ethics for Graduate Students (Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Dentistry)
This course covers the international standards of ethical research as applied to the conduct of clinical research (i.e., pharmaceutical and medical device trials, epidemiological studies, and the concepts of good clinical practice and clinical equipoise).

GRSC6032 Research Ethics for Graduate Students (Faculty of Engineering)
This course covers topics such as international standards for good engineering practice, laboratory safety, human subjects research protections, conflicts of interest and good scientific conduct. Students of education interested in issues of engineering and technology education may also find this course useful.

GRSC6033 Research Ethics for Graduate Students (Faculty of Science)
This course covers the international standards of ethical research as applied to the conduct of basic science research in a laboratory setting. This course reviews the standards of good laboratory practice and laboratory safety from the perspective of an ethical commitment. This course also reviews the standards of scientific research misconduct in the laboratory setting.

Remarks:
Students wishing to enroll in the Research Ethics course not intended for their home Faculties must seek approval from their supervisors and the Graduate School. Change of course though is not advisable.

Enrollment:
This course is compulsory for all MPhil and 4-year PhD students registered in or after September 2009. 3-year PhD students registered in September 2011 and thereafter are also required to take the course IF they have not yet completed equivalent training in previous research degree programmes. Professional doctorate students (DBA, DNurs, DPA, EdD, PsyD) registered in or after September 2014 are required to take this course. There is no assumption that students will be familiar with ethical concepts or standards of ethical research conduct prior to their enrollment.

Assessment:
Students must complete the following to pass the course:
1) web-based learning modules (*Research Integrity* run by Epigeum – Part of Oxford University Press) – an info sheet with details of the programme attached;
and
2) a written assignment of about 500 words.
Students are encouraged to use inclusive or gender-neutral language in their assignments. Information of inclusive language can be found in resources such as *Nine techniques for achieving gender neutrality* (https://edwardseducationblog.files.wordpress.com/2013/08/the-chicago-manual-of-style-online-5-225_-nine-techniques-for-achieving-gender-neutrality.pdf) and *Stereotypes and biased language* (https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/608/05/).

Attendance:
For GRSC6029/6030/6032/6033
Students are expected to attend all classes. Students who missed one class or more are required to do make-up work assigned by the teacher.

For GRSC6031
All workshops are compulsory and no make-up work is available for students who are absent. For details, please refer to the workshop announcement sent by the LKS Faculty of Medicine.

Learning outcomes:
On completion of the course, students will be able to:
- Explain the values and conventions of research integrity during data collection appropriate to their discipline;
- Apply principles of responsible conduct to research project design;
- Critically evaluate their own and others' research practices in terms of potential risks and benefits;
- Demonstrate the features of ethical authorship and publication practice in their own writing;
- Differentiate between conflicts of interest and conflicts of commitment;

- Design independent plans for ethical use, sharing, storage and security of research material and data; and
- Synthesize current principles and practices of ethical research in their disciplines to fit related emerging areas and innovations.

July 2019
July 2020

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
GRADUATE SCHOOL

Research Ethics for Graduate Students (GRSC6029/6030/6031/6032/6033)
**Web-based Learning Modules for Research Integrity**

As part of the student learning assessment for the Research Ethics course, students are required to complete the web-based learning modules for the **Research Integrity** programme developed by Epigeum.

(2)   The following information is provided to help students to get registered on the Epigeum website. **Students must enroll in the Research Integrity programme, where they should:**

   a.   study **ALL the learning modules in the Core component (Research Integrity: Core)** *and* **TWO of the learning modules in the Supplementary component (Research Integrity: Supplementary) online**;
   b.   obtain **a score of at least 80% for each of the module quizzes**; and
   c.   submit **the completion report issued by Epigeum to the course teacher** for records of assessment.

(3)   **Any new user of Epigeum must, first of all, register as a new learner and create a learner account.** *Note that no payment is required for registration.* Below are the step-by-step instructions for registration:

   a.   Go to https://courses.epigeum.com/
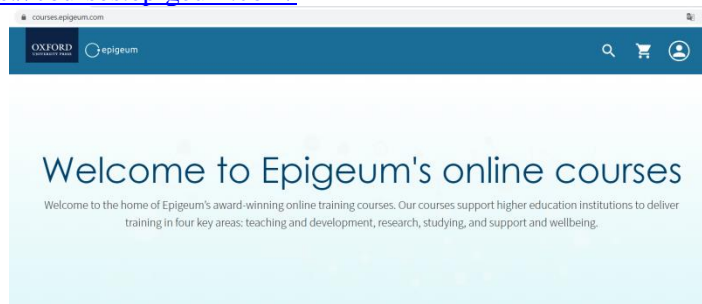
   b.   Click on the button on the top right hand corner and then on "Register" with your **HKU email address**.
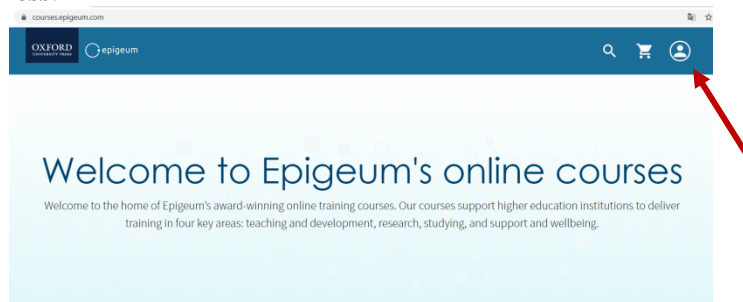
   In filling in your personal information, remember to enter your name **as you would like it to appear on your programme certificate** received at the end of the programme

c. Complete the form and **enter the token 67122e5e** during registration.

d. You will be sent an account activation email to the HKU email address you entered during registration. Please click on the link in the activation email to complete registration and activate your account. If you do not receive the email in your inbox, please check your SPAM/junk mail.

e. After logging in, click on **Research Integrity: Second Edition** and study the modules. Once a course has been successfully completed (by achieving 80% or higher in the end of course quiz), you will be able to download your unique certificate of completion.
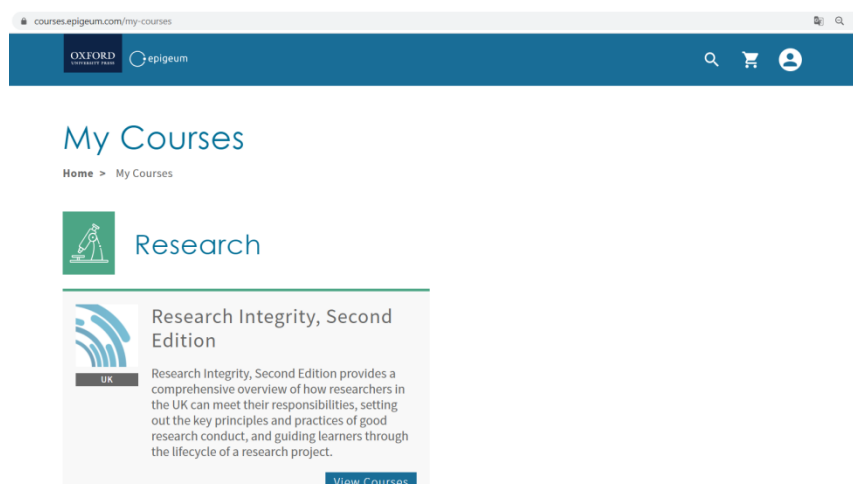
f. If you require further assistance, please see the help page or contact the Epigeum customer support team via this webform.

(4)   The course teacher for GRSC6029/6030/6031/6032/6033 should inform students at the very beginning of the course of when and how they should submit the programme certificate for assessment records.

(5)   If students have any problems relating to taking the Research Integrity learning modules on Epigeum, they should discuss with the teacher as soon as the course starts.

(6)   Passing the Research Integrity learning modules is only part of the course requirements for GRSC6029/6030/6031/6032/6033. To complete the course successfully, students must also fulfill the rest of the assessment requirements as specified in the course syllabus.

Prepared by Graduate School
November 30, 2020