

Entry requirements

To be considered for the course applicants need to -

- Submit a completed application form;
- Show they have successfully completed a 3 year undergraduate degree in any of a range of disciplines including medicine, science, arts and law, plus relevant work experience in health research policy and processes;
- Provide their curriculum vitae together with one or two professional references;
- Provide documentation of their proficiency in English by obtaining a IELTS overall band score of 7.0 with no individual band score of less than 6.5; or a TOEFL score of 600 with a TWE score of 5; or a computer based TOEFL score of 250 with an ER score of 5. (This only applies to students who have obtained their degrees from universities in non-English speaking countries);
- Provide a personal statement outlining their reasons for wanting to undertake the MIRB course, including the relevance of research bioethics to their future career path;
- Provide a letter of support from their institution or employer expressing commitment to leave the applicant's position open for them for the duration of the course, and to ensure that on their return to work, the applicant's role in the organisation will involve research bioethics. (Applicants for fully funded places in the course should be working in low or middle income countries in the Asia-Pacific region. All applicants should be in a position to contribute to the strengthening of health research ethics policy and processes in their country after the course.

Other considerations

In choosing students for funded places each year, the following may be taken into consideration:

- The balance of age, gender, country and profession among course participants;
- Membership of an indigenous community;
- Advice from the International Advisory Committee and the MIRB Consortium



The Alfred Hospital in Melbourne, home of the MIRB course.

For more information

Contact the Administrative Officer
Master of International Research Bioethics
Monash University
Department of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine
Alfred Hospital
Melbourne 3004

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Email mirb@med.monash.edu.au

www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology
and follow the link for prospective students

Course code 3440
CRICOS code 048299B

Photo on front courtesy of Burnet Institute

Master of International Research Bioethics



The course is offered by the Department of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine (DEPM) at Monash University.

DEPM was established in 1969 and plays a prominent role in public health medicine both in Australia and in developing countries. It is recognised as an institution that embraces new ideas and opportunities, fostering a culture of innovation.

The program is interdisciplinary, covering comparative moral theory, research bioethics in an international setting, quantitative and qualitative research methodology, critical appraisal techniques and relevant law.

Students will acquire the theoretical and methodological skills required to lead others in both the practice of ethical decision making in their own countries and in the teaching of necessary skills.

Particular emphasis is given to ethical issues associated with research in developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region and with indigenous populations.

Course structure

On campus,
1 year full time, 12 units

- Units are -
- Principles of health care ethics
 - Critical appraisal skills
 - Comparative moral theory & ethics
 - International research bioethics
 - Research with vulnerable populations
 - Research, bioethics and law
 - Introductory epidemiology
 - Field methods for IH planning and evaluation
 - Introductory statistics
 - Health of women and children in developing countries
 - Research practicum
 - Community health, communications & training

In-country project

Once students have completed the course, they will have the opportunity to design a program for their institution or workplace that will develop or improve the bioethical decision-making processes in their countries. Students will design and implement their program with the support of members of their institution or workplace and the assistance of two members of the MIRB Consortium. The project should be in place for a minimum of six months.



Staff and associates

Program Director
Dr Bebe Loff BA LLB MA
Bebe is Head of the Human Rights and Bioethics Unit at DEPM

Associate Directors
Dr Mike Toole BMedSc(Hons), MCommH, PhD, DTM&H, FAFPHM, is Head of the Centre for International Health at the Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health

Dr Jim Black MBBS(Hons), MCommH, PhD, DTM&H, FAFPHM, is Head of Epidemiology at the Victorian Infectious Diseases Service at the Royal Melbourne Hospital

Course objectives

By the end of this course students should be able to -

Demonstrate an understanding of basic moral theory and bioethics and the application of bioethical principles to research in both domestic and international collaborative contexts;

Show an understanding of quantitative and qualitative research methods and be able to critically review the scientific merit of research proposals;

Show an understanding of the opportunities for the 'study community' to participate in the planning and implementation of a study and to advise on the ethical considerations that may arise;

Identify the special issues related to health research in developing country settings, especially in research with vulnerable populations and cases in which the investigators are from a different cultural or ethnic setting;

Demonstrate an understanding of the practical operation of research applications and approval processes of ethics committees and the interantional and domestic legal frameworks in which these committees function.

