

Please read the following information carefully. It contains **important changes to the requirements for submitting student research papers.**

Clinical Research

According to **Article 131 of the Law on Health Care of the Republic of Serbia**, any research involving patients and/or their biological material requires prior approval from the **Ethics Committee** of the health institution where the patients are treated and from which the material is obtained.

In line with this regulation, we **strongly recommend** that this year's student papers be based on data collected as part of **existing research projects** that already have the approval of the relevant institutional Ethics Committee.

The **student's mentor must be involved** in that ongoing research or the research team covered by the existing approval, even if the approval is not issued directly in their name. The Ethics Committee approval must be submitted to **CSNIRS** by **February 15, 2026**. If the approval is not submitted by this date, the paper will **not be accepted for further review**.

If mentors and students wish to submit a paper based on data **outside of the mentor's current research projects** (whether retrospective or prospective), they are required to **obtain a new Ethics Committee approval** by themselves from the relevant institution and submit it to CSNIRS by **February 15, 2026**.

Please note that processing times for new Ethics Committee approvals may vary, and CSNIRS **cannot be held responsible** for delays in obtaining approval or for the rejection of papers due to incomplete documentation. In such cases, the project may be resubmitted during **the following year's call** for student papers.

** All data used in student research must originate from patients treated at the official teaching hospitals affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade. Papers using data collected from patients treated outside these institutions **will not be accepted**.*

(Article 10, Regulations of the Center for Student Professional and Scientific Research Work)

Preclinical Research

Mentors and students submitting studies involving **experimental animals** must provide CSNIRS with:

- Approval from the **Ethics Committee** for the use of animals in that research, and
- Proof that the mentor holds a **license to work with experimental animals** (e.g., a photo of the student index showing the passed exam, or an official license).

These documents must be submitted **no later than December 15, 2025**, when the topic submission period closes.

For research involving **questionnaires that do not include patient data** (e.g., student surveys), as well as for studies conducted on **cadaveric material or cell lines**, the author and mentor are required to submit the **Request Form for Giving an Opinion and Approving a Student Scientific Research Paper**, and, if necessary, the **Disclosure of Personal Data** form. If the study is **prospective and involves human participants**, an **Informed Consent Form** must also be provided.

All details regarding the submission procedure and the required documentation will be available on the website in the coming days.

All submitted documentation will be reviewed by the **Ethics Committee for Student Research**, after which authors will be informed whether their submission is complete and whether the topic has been approved.

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions

Do the same rules for Ethics Committee approval apply to hospitals and centers outside the Clinical Center of Serbia, if they are teaching bases of our faculty?

Yes.

Do individual hospitals and institutes have their own Ethics Committees?

Yes. Each teaching institution affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine has its own Ethics Committee, from which approval must be obtained or an existing approval submitted.

Is any Ethics Committee approval valid if the mentor is part of the project from which data will be used?

No. Only approvals issued by Ethics Committees of **teaching institutions** affiliated with the **Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade**, where the mentor is employed, are accepted.

Does the mentor have to be the main researcher listed on the Ethics Committee approval?

No. It is sufficient for the mentor to be a member of the research team covered by the approval.

Can a student submit a paper based on a subject completed during the November graduation exam period?

Yes. As long as the topic submission period is still open, you may submit a topic related to a course completed during the November exam session.