Students and mentors are kindly asked to read carefully the following information regarding changes to the requirements for submitting student scientific research projects.

CLINICAL RESEARCH

Pursuant to Law on Health Care of the Republic of Serbia, prior approval must be obtained from the **Ethics Committee of the healthcare institution** in which the patients are treated and whose biological material is used in the research for any research involving patients and/or their biological material.

In view of the above, mentors and students are advised to **base this year's student research projects on data collected as part of existing studies for which approval has been granted by the Ethics Committee of the competent healthcare institution**. The student's mentor must be involved in the relevant study or in the research team covered by the approval, although the approval does not have to be issued in the mentor's name.

If mentors and students wish to submit **a project involving data outside the existing studies** in which the mentor is involved (whether a retrospective or a prospective study), the mentor and the student are required to obtain approval from the competent Ethics Committee of the institution themselves and submit it to CSNIRS. Approval must be submitted as soon as possible. Mentors and students are therefore urged to obtain approval from the relevant Ethics Committees in good time, taking into account the schedules of the individual Ethics Committees. In the case of the Ethics Committee of the University Clinical Centre of Serbia (UCCS), an application for approval must be submitted **15 days before the meeting at which the application will be considered (meetings are held once a month, on the last Tuesday of the month)**. Please bear in mind that the application must be submitted sufficiently early in order for approval to be obtained and submitted on time. The Ethics Committees of other teaching hospitals and institutions have their own schedules, so applicants must contact them directly to obtain this information. In addition to approval from the institution's competent Ethics Committee, the applicant must complete the Application Form for an Opinion of the Ethics Committee for Student Scientific Research and submit the required supporting documents (for retrospective studies: the completed Form, approval from the institution's Ethics Committee, a data protection statement, and the questionnaires/tests and any other similar materials used in the study; for prospective studies: the completed Form, approval from the institution's Ethics Committee, informed consent, a data protection statement, and the questionnaires/tests and similar materials used in the research).

* All data used must originate from patients treated at the teaching hospitals and institutions affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade. Projects using data collected from patients outside these institutions will not be accepted in the student research competition! (Article 10 of the Rulebook on the Work of the Centre for Professional and Scientific Research Work of Students).

PRECLINICAL RESEARCH

Mentors and students submitting a research project involving **experimental animals** must, by the deadline for submission of research topics (11th December 2026), provide CSNIRS with approval from the Ethics Committee for the use of experimental animals in research, as well as proof that the mentor holds a licence to work with experimental animals (a photograph/scan of the student record book showing that the relevant examination has been passed, or a licence to work with experimental animals). In addition, applicants must complete the Application Form for an Opinion of the Ethics Committee for Student Scientific Research.

For studies in which data are collected using questionnaires that do not involve patient data (e.g. questionnaires for students), the Application Form for an Opinion of the Ethics Committee for Student Scientific Research must be completed and accompanied by a data protection statement/informed consent, the questionnaires, and all other materials used in the research. These documents must be submitted by the deadline for submission of research topics.

For research conducted using cadaveric material and cell lines, the author and the mentor must complete the Application Form for an Opinion of the Ethics Committee for Student Scientific Research by the deadline for submission of research topics.

All documents submitted to CSNIRS will be forwarded to the Ethics Committee for Student Research for review. The authors will subsequently be notified whether the submitted documentation is complete and informed of the Ethics Committee for Student Research's decision regarding the proposed research topic.

FAQ – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does the same requirement to obtain approval from an Ethics Committee also apply to other hospitals and centers outside UCCS that are teaching institutions affiliated with our Faculty?

Yes.

Who is required to complete the Application Form for an Opinion of the Ethics Committee for Student Scientific Research available on Reticulum?

All applicants submitting a research topic in this year's competition must complete the Form, together with the other required supporting documents relevant to the research they are conducting.

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 for the research must be obtained, or whose existing approval must be submitted.

Will any ethics approval for a project in which the mentor is involved, and from which data will be used for the student research project, be accepted?

Only approvals issued by the Ethics Committees of institutions at which the mentor is employed and which are teaching institutions affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade, will be accepted.

Does the mentor also have to be the principal applicant/holder of the Ethics Committee approval?

No. It is sufficient for the mentor to be a member of the research team for which the approval of the Ethics Committee/Board was issued.