

Choosing the Correct CUREB Form

The study's risk profile determines the appropriate form to use

CUREB Main Form: used for minimal-risk and above-minimal risk studies.

Minimal Risk: the likelihood and magnitude of possible harm *is no greater than those encountered in everyday life*. Types of harm include physical, psychological/emotional, legal, social (e.g., privacy, reputation). Potential harm may increase when viewed in relation to participant vulnerabilities.

Above Minimal Risk: the likelihood and magnitude of possible harm *is greater than those encountered in everyday life*. In these studies, potential harm is more serious, or more likely to occur, or participant vulnerabilities increase the overall risk. Examples include physical interventions/invasive procedures, psychological/emotional distress, sensitive topics, social, financial, or legal risks, etc.

CUREB Very Low Risk Form: used for studies where the risk is even below the minimal-risk standard.

Very Low Risk: risks are lower than minimal risk; likelihood and magnitude of harm are very low.

Criteria to qualify as Very Low Risk study:

- Very low risk
- No physically invasive intervention
- Free and informed consent
- Disclosure of data would not be damaging
- No deception
- No direct interactions with Indigenous Peoples or Communities

Risk Level	Definition	Form to Choose	Review Type
Very Low Risk	Risk is lower than minimal risk : likelihood and magnitude of harm are very low	Very Low Risk (VLR) Form	Administrative review
Minimal Risk	Risk is no greater than everyday life experiences	Main CUREB Form	Delegated review
Above Minimal Risk	Risks exceed everyday life : sensitive topics, vulnerable participants, potential harm	Main CUREB Form	Full Board review

Other Protocol Forms

The **Secondary Use of Data Form** is used for studies which do not collect new data but instead seek to analyze existing data collected earlier for a different purpose.

The **External Review** process applies to projects where the researcher seeks clearance from Carleton after having obtained clearance from a different institution. Instead of a protocol form, researchers must:

- Submit a cover letter (outlining the study's purpose, the participants, the research methods, and the extent of Carleton's involvement),
- The approved external protocol form and appendices (recruitment, consent, study instruments, etc.), and the
- External clearance certificate.