
Title of the course

- **250003 Research Ethics**

Organizing center/area leading the course

Deusto International Research School (DIRS)

Training category

AF7. Methodology and research techniques

Professor/Coordinator of the training course

Coordinator: Ángela Bermúdez Vélez

Professor: Ángela Bermúdez Vélez

Priority group

PhD candidates, preferably in their first year of study

Competences (competence-based definition of the objectives):

This course aims to foster the creation of a research environment based on a culture of integrity, transparency and rigour. The main focus is on preparation of the doctoral thesis, enabling PhD students to acknowledge their role as researchers and the ethical scope of research.

The course provides a basic framework of reference for the ethics of research applied to the specialist area and looks to provide PhD students with the ethical standards required in research as well as the frameworks, obligations and corresponding ethical and legal rules.

This course affords an opportunity to reflect on the social impact of research and offers an outline of basic resources that can be used to apply ethical criteria during the different stages of preparing the doctoral thesis.

The content of this module will mainly contribute to acquisition of the following competence:

BC17: Apply ethical standards and criteria of scientific integrity, respect for the dignity of persons and the search for benefits to society, particularly the most underprivileged.

Upon completion of this activity, the PhD candidate is expected to:

- Identify the ethical and legal framework of their research project as regards the proposed methodology.
- Prepare the strategy and protocols required to comply with the ethical rules and obligations as stipulated for said project.
- Provide guarantees to ensure compliance with basic ethical research principles (informed consent, confidentiality, veracity, independence, conflict of interests, etc.).
- Identify the framework of rights and responsibilities of all the subjects participating in the research (if necessary).
- Formulate the limitations, barriers and risks of the research.

- Recognise the impact and social benefit of the research.
- Apply basic ethical research resources in the different stages of the doctoral thesis preparation

Pre-requisites / prior knowledge

None

Contents

- The social purpose and impact of the research
- Ethical reference points in research
- Ethical principles in research and protocols for their application
- Research ethics and integrity
- Regulatory frameworks for research
 - Codes of ethics
 - Codes of conduct
 - Research ethics committees
- Research ethics handbook: basic resources

Level of the course

Introductory

Methodology

Presentation of the course content by the lecturer. Case studies, analysis of protocols and reports.

Language of instruction

English

Mode of instruction

Taught sessions, with the option of completing the course remotely

Number of places

PhD students: no maximum

Personnel training: 5

Assessment

- 1.- Participation in the practical activities scheduled in the classroom
- 2.- Elaboration of an individual project in which the candidate highlights at least two of the three following issues:
 - i. the ethical relevance of the research proposal
 - ii. ethical demands of the proposed methodology (i.e. informed consent protocol). In this case, a draft of the letter/protocol to be used should be attached as an appendix to the project.
 - iii. social benefit of the research and its impact on improving people's lives.

Number of hours

12 hours

Bilbao Campus

- Month when the course begins: March 2026
- Schedule:

Monday, March 16, 2026 (15:00-18:00)

Wednesday, March 17, 2026 (15:00-18:00)

Thursday, March 18, 2026 (15:00-18:00)
