



External Research Collaboration Protocol:

1. Expression of Interest:

External researchers interested in conducting research at Sohail University (SU) express their interest and intent to collaborate with full-time relevant faculty. This can be in the form of an initial inquiry or letter of intent.

2. Identification of Co-PI:

External researchers identify and establish collaboration with a full-time relevant faculty member at SU who will serve as a Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) for the research project.

3. Letter of Collaboration:

The external researcher and SU Co-PI formalize their collaboration through a signed letter of collaboration outlining roles, responsibilities, and expectations.

4. ERC Approval Letter from Parent University:

External researchers are required to obtain approval from their parent university's Ethics Review Committee (ERC) and provide the approval letter to SU. This ensures that the research aligns with ethical standards and guidelines.

5. Submission of ERC Application:

Upon fulfilling the collaboration and ERC approval conditions, the external researcher, along with the SU Co-PI, submits the research proposal along with the ERC application to SU's Ethics Review Committee.

6. Compliance with SOPs:

The submission of the ERC application must adhere to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) established by SU. These procedures may include specific formats, timelines, and documentation requirements.

7. Ethics Review Committee Evaluation:

The SU Ethics Review Committee evaluates the research proposal, considering ethical, legal, and safety aspects. Feedback may be provided to the researchers for necessary adjustments.

8. Approval Process:

If the research proposal meets ethical standards and align with university policies, the ERC grants approval. The decision may be communicated to the researchers along with any conditions or recommendations.

9. Research Agreement:

A formal research agreement is established between the external researcher, SU Co-PI, and the university, outlining the terms, conditions, and intellectual property rights associated with the research collaboration.

10. Research Implementation:

Upon approval, the external researcher and SU Co-PI can proceed with the research activities in accordance with the approved protocol and any specified conditions.

11. Reporting and Monitoring:

Periodic progress reports and updates on the research are submitted to SU. The university may monitor the research activities to ensure ongoing compliance with ethical standards.

This protocol ensures a structured and ethical approach to collaborative research involving external researchers and SU faculty, while also adhering to university policies and procedures. Adjustments can be made based on the specific requirements and guidelines of SU.