Ethical guidelines for extended essays research and fieldwork

The following guidelines apply to research and fieldwork in all extended essays.

- Extended essay students must exercise the greatest sensitivity to local and international cultures.

- Any research/fieldwork that creates anxiety, stress, pain or discomfort for participants is not permitted.

- Any research/fieldwork that involves unjustified deception, involuntary participation or invasion of privacy, including inappropriate use of information technology (IT), email and the internet, is prohibited.

- All participants in research activities must be informed before commencing the research that they have the right to withdraw at any time. Pressure must not be placed on any individual participant to continue with the investigation beyond this point.

- Each participant must be informed of the aims and objectives of the research and in addition be shown the results of the research.

- Informed consent should be obtained from the people who are the subject of the fieldwork. Research involving children needs the written consent of parent(s) or guardian(s). Students must ensure that parents are fully informed about the implications for children who take part in such research. Where research is conducted with children in a school, the written consent of the teachers concerned must also be obtained.

- Extended essay students must avoid conducting research with any adult who is not in a fit state of mind and cannot respond freely and independently.

- If any participant shows stress and/or pain at any stage of the research, the research must finish immediately, and the participant must be allowed to withdraw.

- Participants must be debriefed and given the right to withdraw their own personal data and responses. Anonymity for each participant must be guaranteed.

- All data collected must be kept in a confidential and responsible manner and not divulged to any other person.

- Research that is conducted online, using IT methods, is subject to the same guidelines. Any data collected online must be deleted once the research has been completed. Such data must not be used for any purpose other than the conduct of the research.