



**LUNDS**  
UNIVERSITET

DECISION

Registration number  
P 2020/1701

*Date* 25 March 2021

Vice-chancellor

## **Lund University regulation on ethical standards for research involving humans that is conducted abroad**

### **Background**

Lund University is an international university which conducts much of its research beyond Sweden's borders. Only in exceptional cases does this international research fall under the rules aiming to protect human beings, animals and society in Sweden. One example is the Act concerning the Ethical Review of Research Involving Humans (2003:460) which is only applicable to research conducted in Sweden.

Many countries have rules and guidelines corresponding to those in Sweden. Sometimes, however, there are no such similar rules or they do not live up to a standard considered acceptable in Sweden. This is unfortunate in cases where the research involves human beings, including personal data and biological material from humans.

Research conducted at Lund University must respect the laws and rules in the country in which the research is carried out, but these are not to be used to justify ethically indefensible research. A regulation governing the University's research abroad aims to ensure that the University's researchers live up to a standard at least equivalent to that which applies in Sweden when conducting research in other countries.

Regardless of the field of research, it is essential for the University to ensure a high ethical standard.

With regard to research involving animals, Lund University has decided on a regulation aiming to ensure that all use of animals for research purposes at Lund University lives up to applicable national regulations, which in turn are based on a common directive for the EU member states (2010/63/EU).

### Decision

Based on Chapter 2 Section 5 of the Higher Education Act (1992:1434) the University prescribes the following.

Lund University employees are not to:

- take part in research projects abroad without having access to information of significance for the ethical review of the research,
- take part in research projects abroad which do not live up to the ethical standard that applies to research in Sweden,
- locate activities abroad in order to avoid publicity, review or criticism regarding the content or implementation of the research.

The present regulations enter into force on 25 March 2021.

The decision on this matter was taken by the undersigned vice-chancellor in the presence of the deputy university director Cecilia Billgren after consultation with a representative of the Lund University Students' Unions and a presentation by policy officer Magnus Gudmundsson, University Management Office.

Erik Renström

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