IRB FAQ for Brown University

Q: What types of projects require IRB approval?

A: Projects that require IRB approval are research projects that involve human subjects. See the Research Projections Office website for definitions of “research” and “human subjects” (http://research.brown.edu/rschadmin/hrpo.php).

Q: Is IRB approval for a project or a person?

A: IRB approval is for a project, not a person.

Q: If I am doing my research at one of the hospitals, do I need Brown IRB approval?

A: Hospital IRB approval must be obtained for any research taking place under its auspices. Whether or not you need additional approval from the Brown IRB depends on who is the primary investigator (PI) on the project.

If your faculty mentor is the PI and has already obtained hospital IRB approval, you do not need additional approval from Brown unless you are contributing a new aspect of the project that was not included on the original hospital IRB approval. If you are the PI on the project, you will need Brown IRB approval as well.

Q: Do I have to have IRB approval in place in order to apply for a Summer Assistantship?

A: If your project requires IRB approval, you must submit your IRB application to the Research Protections Office by the Summer Assistantship application deadline. Final IRB approval must be in place by the start of your project.

Q: What other steps do I need to take in order to receive IRB approval?

A: All research personnel involved in human research projects and anyone in contact with participant identities must complete the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI). IRB approval is contingent upon successful completion of this program. This educational program can be completed here: http://www.citiprogram.org/