

Dear Deans, Chairs, Center Directors, Directors of Graduate Studies and Managers,

**Please share this message with faculty, post-docs and graduate students in your programs who may be planning summer research outside of Brown facilities.**

If you are planning summer research outside of Brown facilities, including travel to field sites or labs at other universities or facilities, or work in the community, COVID-related policies require you to submit plans for review to either one or two University committees: Resuming Research and/or Global Travel Risk Assessment. This does not apply to remote research from your home.

**Field research** is any research activity outside a laboratory or library/archive facility; the review of field research is undertaken by the [Resuming Field Research](#) committee. **Travel** is any trip, of any duration, outside the state of Rhode Island for the purpose of University-related activities (teaching, research, conferences, etc.). Exceptions to the University's prohibition on any University-sponsored travel are reviewed by the [Global Travel Risk Assessment Committee](#).

Depending on the nature of your proposed plans, your project might require review by only one of these committees, or by both. For projects requiring review by both committees, we ask that you submit the documents required for both reviews simultaneously and in your submitted documents indicate that you have submitted to both committees. The committees will then coordinate their review processes so that the final step of the review (Provost level) has information from both reviews.

This applies to graduate students, post-docs, faculty and staff. No exceptions for University-sponsored travel will be granted for undergraduate students until further notice.

The following examples are included to illustrate what reviews would be necessary:

- A researcher is traveling to a national lab or other university to do research in that facility. The researcher will abide by the COVID-related safety protocols of that facility while doing research there. This would require travel review, but not field research review.
- A researcher is traveling to an archive (outside of Rhode Island) to view documents that are unable to be accessed digitally. The researcher will abide by the COVID-related safety protocols of the library/archive while doing research there. This would require travel review, but not field research review.
- A researcher is going to collect live frogs at sites in Rhode Island state parks. This activity would require field research review, but not travel review. (It would also require any animal research review that is required at all times).
- A researcher is going to collect plant samples at state parks throughout New England. This activity would require both field research review and travel review.
- A researcher is conducting focus groups with members of Rhode Island churches, and plans to run the focus groups in person in the churches. This activity would require field



research review, but not travel review. (It would also require any human subjects research review that is required at all times).

- A researcher will undertake ethnography with a community group outside of RI. The researcher will abide by the COVID-related safety protocols of that group while doing research there. This activity would require both field research review and travel review.

If you have questions about specific situations, plans with unique complexities, or information needed in the field research review, please reach out to [Leah VanWey](#), contact for the Resuming Field Research Committee. If you have questions about travel that is not research-related, please contact [Christine Sprovieri](#), contact for GTRAC.

Thank you for your ongoing work to support the safety of the Brown research community.

Jill Pipher  
Vice President for Research