Ethical Considerations

Areas Requiring Ethical Consideration

1. Data Collection and Participant Involvement

- The project involves human participants through surveys and interviews with 15-20 international project managers.
- Requires careful consideration of recruitment, consent, and participant protection.
- The mixed methods approach necessitates multiple layers of ethical safeguards.

2. Data Security and Storage

Following the Ethics Submission Guidance Booklet, these measures will be implemented:

- Raw data storage in encrypted cloud systems with a 12-month retention period
- Password-protected digital storage with regular backup procedures
- Limited access controls (researcher and supervisor only)
- Secure disposal procedures after a retention period
- GDPR-compliant data processing and storage

3. Participant Protection

- Professional reputation safeguards through anonymisation
- Cultural sensitivity in questioning and reporting
- Clear documentation of participation rights and withdrawal procedures
- Psychological protection through careful handling of sensitive topics
- Time commitment management for participants

4. Risk Management Strategies

Participant Risks:

- Protection of professional standing
- Safeguarding of organisational relationships
- Cultural sensitivity in communications
- Clear withdrawal rights (up to 2 weeks post-participation)

Data Protection:

- Anonymous survey responses
- Coded interview transcripts
- Secure online platforms for virtual interviews
- Encrypted storage systems
- Regular security audits

Cross-Cultural Considerations:

- Language barrier management in consent and data collection
- Cultural sensitivity in questioning and reporting
- Appropriate communication methods for diverse participants
- Translation services where necessary

Implementation Measures

Documentation Requirements:

1. Participant Information Sheet including:

   - Clear project objectives
   - Data usage explanation
   - Withdrawal rights
   - Support resources

2. Consent Forms covering:

   - Voluntary participation
   - Recording permissions
   - Data usage agreements
   - Withdrawal procedures

Security Protocols:

- Password-protected cloud storage
- Encrypted files for sensitive information
- Regular backup procedures
- Access logging and monitoring
- Secure disposal methods