**Guidelines for Debriefing Statement**

**Institutional Review Board**

**American University of Central Asia**

Researchers may find that the use of deception, or incomplete disclosure, is a necessary tool for their study. However, the use of such techniques raises special issues that the IRB will review closely. Deception occurs when participants are deliberately given false information about some aspect of the research. Incomplete disclosure occurs when participants are not given information about the real purpose or the nature of the research.

Debriefing is an essential part of the consent process and is mandatory when the research study involves deception. Debriefing provides participants with a full explanation of the hypothesis being tested, procedures to deceive participants and the reason(s) why it was necessary to deceive or to only provide partial information to them. It should also include other relevant background information pertaining to the study. Debrief should be conducted immediately after the participants complete their participation. Where it is not scientifically feasible to do so, such as the concern for participants to tell fellow participants the hypothesis of the study, the investigators must put in place a means to debrief all participants at the earliest feasible instance.

During the debriefing, AUCA IRB expects that participants *will be given a debriefing statement* to take with them thereafter. For online studies, the debriefing process should occur as soon as a participant has completed the research activity. As an added measure, it may be necessary to send an email out to all participants after the study is completed to ensure that all participants (those that completed and those that may have stopped mid-way) receive a debriefing form. The debriefing statement and process must be reviewed and approved by the IRB. On top of providing a debriefing statement, it is highly recommended in the debriefing process that investigators conduct the debriefing verbally and in-person, and keep a record with signature detailing which participant has been debriefed and have been issued the debriefing statement to take away with.

**Example of Debriefing Statement**

You may modify to suit your research context. Text in the Black font is examples, while text in blue gives further elaboration.

|  |
| --- |
| Informed Consent Form **Study Title:**  **Principal Investigator:**  Thank you for participating! [optional, but customary]  **Purpose of the Study**  *If deception/incomplete disclosure was used, explain the deception/incomplete disclosure:*   * *Remind the participant of the reason originally given* * *Clearly explain that the reason originally given is not the real object/purpose of the study* * *Explain what the study is actually designed to test* * *Explain why deception/incomplete disclosure was needed*   [if the study is ongoing]: We urge you not to discuss this study with anyone else who is currently participating or might participate at a future time. As you can certainly appreciate, we will not be able to examine [the research topic] in participants who know about the true purpose of the project beforehand.  Contact information  If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact the researcher(s) at Principal investigator’s Contact: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (tel) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (email) Should you have any concerns regarding the ethics of this study, you may also contact AUCA’s Institutional Review Board at irb@auca.kg.  **Final Report**  If you would like to receive a report of this study (or a summary of the findings) when it is completed, contact the principal investigator at the email address or phone number above.  **Further Reading**  In the event you would like to read more about the topic of this study, here are several articles/books/references you might find interesting:  List the bibliographical information here  Top of Form  Top of Form  Top of Form  Top of Form  Top of Form  Top of Form  Bottom of Form  Bottom of Form  Bottom of Form  Bottom of Form  Bottom of Form  Bottom of Form |