Students and faculty across the range of non-clinical disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, business and some aspects of engineering are expected to conduct research which sometimes involves human subjects, i.e. participants. The legislation in a number of countries requires research institutions to safeguard the dignity, rights, health, safety and privacy of those involved by vetting such projects through an Ethics Committee, Review process. This kind of committee is sometimes also called an Institutional Review Board. Since disciplines vary in the level of risk they potentially pose to the human subjects, further legislation (e.g. https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/decision-charts/index.html) introduces clear differentiation of procedure for projects in education and similar disciplines in the humanities and social sciences.

The Ethics Committee of International TESOL Union (ITU) provides this service to corporate members. This kind of membership can be obtained by institutions by donating any amount to support the charitable work of ITU. More information about the application process can be obtained by emailing info@tesolunion.org.