

Culturally Competent Research Framework Worksheet

The framework comprises **25 recommendations** paired with **25 measures**, structured across **five stages of the research lifecycle**. Each stage is underpinned by Meleis' cultural competence criteria—augmented with *Language* as a new criterion—and reframed with emphasis on **cultural humility, reflexivity, and reciprocity**.

How to Use the Worksheet:

- **Actionable guidance:** Each recommendation is paired with a measure, making the framework practice-ready.
- **Flexibility:** Adaptable across disciplines, populations, and study types.
- **Accountability:** Measures provide indicators to monitor and evaluate cultural competence.
- **Integration:** Can be applied in grant-writing, ethics review, research conduct, and dissemination stages.
- **Compulsory standard:** Recommendations were reframed as “should,” emphasising they are not optional but essential for culturally competent research.

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For more information about the CCRF toolkit, please contact Prof Hamde Nazar (hamde.nazar@newcastle.ac.uk), National Institute of Health and care (NIHR) Newcastle Patient Safety Research Collaboration, Newcastle University.

Item No.	Recommendation	Measure	Reported on Page No.
Formulating the Research			
1	Researchers should ensure their research focus is sensitive to the community of interest by considering intersecting factors such as age, generation, sexual orientation, cultural heritage, social class, work conditions, and gender inequality.	Have the researchers aligned their research focus with sensitivity to intersectional factors such as age, generation, sexual orientation, cultural heritage, social class, work conditions, and gender inequality within the community of interest?	
2	Researchers should consider creating capacity within community of interest.	Have the researchers explored ways to build capacity within the community of interest through activities beyond the research itself?	
3	Researchers should explore how diverse populations experience culture—how they feel, think, express themselves, behave, and practice daily life—and how these experiences shape their perspectives and actions within the area of interest.	Has and in what way has the researcher learned about diverse voices and lived experiences of the community of interest?	
4	Researchers should engage in ongoing cultural humility training that encourages self-reflection on their attitudes, positionality, and openness to cultural differences, alongside cultural competency training focused on the specific community of interest	Have the researchers engaged in ongoing cultural humility training—focusing on their attitudes, positionality, and openness to cultural differences—along with cultural competency training specific to the community of interest?	
5	Researchers should have a strategy to capture and monitor impact and value of patient and public involvement.	Have researchers developed a strategy to capture and monitor impact and value of patient and public involvement?	
6	Researchers should equally engage with diverse members, leaders and experts in the community of interest who can provide culturally sensitive information to support research problem formulation.	How have diverse members, leaders and experts in the community of interest participated in/contributed to the formulation of the area of research focus and interest?	
7	Researchers should include members of the community/ public members in the research team to guide culturally sensitive problem formulation.	Does the research team include members of the community /public members in the research team to guide culturally sensitive problem formulation?	
8	Researchers should consider costs and benefits of using a variety of translation and interpretation services (such as transcription of interviews or parts of it in original language, using lay research services etc).	Have researchers considered costs and benefits of using a variety of translation and interpretation services (such as transcription of interviews or parts of it in original language, using lay research services etc)?	
9	Researchers should enquire about the need for using a variety of	How did the researchers use interpretation and translation services,	

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	translation and interpretation services (such as transcription of interviews or parts of it in original language, using lay research services etc) as well as transcription for people with accessibility needs.	and how did they ensure accessibility when transcribing and interpreting data, including for participants with specific accessibility needs?	
10	Researchers should show evidence to demonstrate their appreciation of power dynamics between them and different groups and communities involved.	Have the researchers provided an opportunity for participants to freely share their ideas in relation to formulating the area of research focus and interest?	
11	Researchers should work with members of the diverse community of interest to discuss and agree on fair compensation strategies for participants' involvement in the research.	Have the researchers engaged with the diverse community of interest to discuss and agree the strategy of compensation for participants' involvement in the research?	
Recruitment			
12	Researchers should spend time building trust with communities of interest and participants to promote engagement with the study.	Have researchers developed a strategy of building trust with communities of interest and participants to promote engagement with the study?	
13	Researchers should engage with a group of trusted/respected people within the community of interest who can provide culturally sensitive information to support study recruitment.	Have researchers engaged with a group of trusted/respected people within the community of interest who can provide culturally sensitive information to support study recruitment?	
14	Researchers should demonstrate how they have tailored recruitment and facilitated a diverse representation of the community of interest	Have the researchers demonstrated how their recruitment strategy has facilitated a diverse insight of the community of interest?	
15	Ethics should be addressed through the lens of ethnicity and culture by: (i) ensuring ethics committees receive cultural training, (ii) providing culturally appropriate explanations of the study, (iii) assessing cultural barriers to achieving truly informed consent, and (iv) evaluating the risk–benefit ratio from the cultural perspective of potential participants.	Has ethics been considered and applied through the lens of ethnicity and culture, including: (i) cultural training for the ethics committee, (ii) provision of culturally appropriate study explanations, (iii) assessment of cultural barriers to achieving truly informed consent, and (iv) evaluation of the risk–benefit ratio from the cultural perspective of potential participants?	
16	Researchers should consider costs and benefits of using a variety of translation and interpretation services (such as transcription of interviews or parts of it in original language, using lay research services etc)	Have the researchers considered costs and benefits of using a variety of translation and interpretation services (such as transcription of interviews or parts of it in original language, using lay research services etc)?	
17	Researchers should develop a tailored communication strategy with the community of interest.	Has a tailored communication strategy been described, implemented, undertaken and assessed?	

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Measurement			
18	Researchers should consider participants experiences of culture in relation to how they feel, think, express and behave and how this may influence data being collected in collaboration with appropriate stakeholders.	Has and in what way have the researcher learned about diverse voices and lived experiences of the community in focus?	
19	Researchers should consider costs and benefits of using a variety of translation and interpretation services (such as transcription of interviews or parts of it in original language, using lay research services etc)	Have the researchers considered costs and benefits of using a variety of translation and interpretation services (such as transcription of interviews or parts of it in original language, using lay research services etc)?	
20	Researchers should consider how they engage with non-native speakers to ensure their involvement is facilitated in the research process.	Have the researchers considered how they engage with non-native speakers to engage them throughout the research process?	
Analysis and Interpretation			
21	Researchers should explore how diverse populations experience culture—how they feel, think, express themselves, behave, and carry out daily practices—and how these experiences shape their perspectives and actions within the area of interest.	Has and in what way have the researcher learned about diverse voices and lived experiences of the community in focus?	
22	Researchers should consider co-analysis of data together with the community of interest and reimburse them for their time and input.	Have researchers considered co-analysis of data together with the community of interest followed by reimbursement for their time and input?	
Dissemination			
23	Researchers should disseminate findings in an understandable, meaningful way to participants so that the study population benefits from it and the research results work for the community of interest.	Have the researchers considered meaningful and understandable ways of disseminating the research results so that it works for people and in a way that works for them?	
24	Researchers should explore and report on how diverse populations experience culture—how they feel, think, express themselves, behave, and carry out daily practices—and how these experiences shape their perspectives and actions within the area of interest.	Has and in what way the researcher learned about and reported on diverse voices and lived experiences of the community in focus?	
25	Study findings should be shared with all levels of involvement—from individual participants to the broader community of interest—as well as with diverse audiences.	Have the researchers developed and included the dissemination plan agreed with the community of interest, participants, and patient and public involvement members?	

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