Sampling, Randomization & Allocation Concealment — Service Segment

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We help you define who enters your study, how they are selected, and how groups are formed, in a way that is both practical and defensible. The focus is on clear sampling frames, transparent recruitment pathways, robust randomization (where applicable), and allocation concealment that reduces selection bias and satisfies protocol and ethics reviewers.

- Target population and sampling frame articulated in plain, reviewer friendly language
- Documented sampling strategy (probability or non probability) linked to feasibility and potential bias
- Randomization or allocation method description (simple, block, stratified, cluster, etc.) where applicable
- Practical allocation concealment approach (sealed envelopes, opaque covers, central allocation, etc.) tailored to PhD scale

Recruitment and screening flow from approached to eligible to enrolled participants

Text blocks that slot directly into protocol, ethics, and synopsis templates for sampling and allocation sections

Workflow — How Sampling, Randomization & Allocation Concealment Runs

1. **Context and population mapping**
   You share your domain, setting, and who you believe your study should apply to. We clarify the source population, accessible population, and realistic sampling frame.
2. **Review of aims, endpoints, and constraints**
   We briefly revisit aims, primary endpoints, and feasibility notes so that sampling and allocation remain aligned with the bigger design.
3. **Drafting the sampling strategy**
   A first pass sampling strategy is drafted (simple random, stratified, cluster, systematic, convenience, purposive, etc.) with short notes on strengths and limitations.
4. **Recruitment pathway and screening flow**
   We outline how participants or units move from being approached to screened, assessed for eligibility, and enrolled, including refusals and ineligible cases.
5. **Randomization or allocation design**
   Where groups or arms are present, we propose a practical randomization or allocation scheme (random number tables, software, envelopes, etc.) suitable for your resources.
6. **Allocation concealment planning**
   We identify how allocation will be concealed from investigators or participants where relevant, and document the procedure clearly for protocol and ethics forms.
7. **Risk and bias check**
   The draft strategy is reviewed for major selection bias risks, and simple mitigations are suggested within realistic PhD level

constraints.

8. **Text and flow documentation**
   A sampling and allocation text block is assembled, alongside a short flow description that can later be adapted into diagrams or consort style figures.
9. **Guide and ethics alignment**
   The language is tuned so that it fits local norms (for example, common phrases used by your department or ethics committee), making approvals smoother.
10. **Delivery and one refinement cycle**
    You receive the written strategy and can discuss it with your guide. One round of refinement is included to adjust the plan or wording after feedback.

What You Get in Your Sampling & Allocation Pack

- **Sampling frame and strategy description** that explains who you are drawing from and how, in language acceptable to reviewers.
- **Recruitment and screening flow narrative** describing the path from approached subjects to enrolled subjects and analysis sets.
- **Randomization or allocation method write up** (where applicable) including sequence generation and implementation details.
- **Allocation concealment procedure** suited to your context, whether single centre clinical, lab based, field, or survey work.
- **Bias and limitation paragraph** which acknowledges realistic constraints and shows reviewers you have thought about them.
- **Protocol ready text blocks** that can be pasted into your Methods/Sampling/Randomization sections with minor editing.

The objective is to make your sampling and allocation strategy believable, clearly documented, and aligned with standard terminology, without over engineering it for a PhD scale project.

Detailed Deliverables, Formats, and Service Boundaries

Deliverables and formats

- One **sampling & recruitment description** in DOCX or equivalent editable format.
- One **randomization/allocation & concealment description** (where relevant) ready to drop into protocol or ethics forms.
- **Short bias and feasibility notes** highlighting major assumptions and practical considerations.
- **Optional schematic outline** (textual) that can later be converted into a consort style or flow diagram.

What is included

- Discussion to arrive at a realistic sampling approach for your context.
- Design of a feasible randomization or allocation plan where your study has multiple groups or arms.
- Suggestions for simple allocation concealment that can actually be executed with available staff and resources.
- Drafting of protocol ready methods text that matches typical university or ethics committee headers.
- One structured refinement cycle after guide or internal review.

What is not included

- Full sample size calculation or detailed power analysis (covered under Statistical Links and related segments).
- Design and management of complex multi centre, multi arm, or industry scale randomization systems.
- On ground execution of recruitment, randomization, or monitoring of adherence to the scheme.
- Legal or regulatory review of your methods; we focus on methodological clarity and feasibility.

When to Use This Service and What You Should Have Ready

Best time to book

- After your basic protocol blueprint and aims are reasonably clear.
- When your guide or ethics committee is asking for more detail on how participants or units will actually be selected and assigned.
- Before committing to a sample size calculation, so that the sampling strategy and groups are defined correctly.
- When you are unsure how to describe randomization and concealment in a way that sounds robust but is still doable.

Helpful inputs from your side

- Your draft aims, primary outcome, and basic idea of groups/arms if any.
- Information about the setting (single/ multiple sites, clinic, lab, community, online, etc.).
- Any departmental or ethics guidelines you already have about sampling or randomization.
- Approximate numbers available (patients, samples, responses) and important constraints such as time windows or eligibility rules.
- Examples of previously accepted protocols from your department, if available.

FAQs — Sampling, Randomization & Allocation Concealment

1. Do I always need randomization for a PhD?
No. Many PhD projects are observational or quasi experimental. Where randomization is not appropriate, we focus on clear sampling and transparent allocation logic instead.

2. What if I have only one group?
In single group or pre post designs, we document the sampling and recruitment pathway, and explain why randomization is not applicable or necessary.

3. Can you help me choose between convenience and probability sampling?
Yes. We discuss feasibility and bias trade offs and then document a choice that is realistic, with honest limitations stated for reviewers.

4. How complex will the randomization plan be?
For most PhD projects, plans remain simple and executable (for example simple or block randomization using software or tables). We avoid over complex schemes that are hard to implement.

5. I do not have access to randomization software. Is that a problem?
Not necessarily. We can suggest low tech but acceptable methods (such as random number tables or sealed envelopes) with clear documentation.

6. What exactly is allocation concealment and why does it matter?
Allocation concealment prevents those enrolling participants from predicting the next assignment, reducing selection bias. We help you define a practical way to achieve this for your context.

7. Will you provide a consort diagram?
We provide the flow narrative and structure. You or your team can later convert this into a consort style diagram once actual numbers are known.

8. Can this be used for cluster or community based studies?
Yes. We adapt the sampling and allocation description to clusters, schools, villages, labs, or other units instead of individual participants.

9. What if my guide has already fixed the sampling method?
We work within the guide's decision, tightening the explanation and documenting limitations and safeguards in a reviewer acceptable way.

10. Does this service include ongoing monitoring of adherence to the randomization?
No. We design and document the strategy. Day to day implementation and monitoring remain with you and your team, though we may suggest simple tracking logs.