

Arts and Humanities Ethics Committee
Ethics Approval for Student Work on PGT Modules

Where students require ethics approval for work on a PGT module (excluding the Dissertation), approval can be provided by the Department's Ethics Officer where the following conditions are met:

- The work is low risk, and so the AHEC Standard Form or Non-Anonymous Checklist Form can be used to apply for ethics approval
- The results of the work are not going to be used by the student in their Dissertation, PhD thesis or made publicly available
- The Department Ethics Officer informs AHEC that ethics approval has been granted for work on the module
- The work is for a PGT module in the Departments of English and Related Literature, History, History of Art, Music or Philosophy.

Department-level ethics approval **cannot** be provided where:

- The work proposed is high risk, and so would require using the AHEC Full Application form. This includes, but is not limited to, work that involves
 - children,
 - people with learning disabilities,
 - people with mental impairment due to health or lifestyle,
 - people who are terminally ill,
 - the recently bereaved,
 - people who are unable to consent to or understand the research,
 - where research concerns sensitive topics / illegal activities,
 - where deception is involved,
 - any research requiring a DBS check,
 - or research involving NHS patients or staff in their capacity as NHS patients or staff
- The work is for a PGT Dissertation
- The work is being undertaken by a PGR student or staff member

Procedure:

PGT students who are planning to undertake work that requires ethics approval for one of their PGT modules (excluding the Dissertation) should determine whether the work is low risk. If it is, they should complete either the AHEC Standard Form or Non-Anonymous Checklist Form (as appropriate) and submit it, along with their information sheet and consent form, to the Department Ethics Officer. The Department Ethics Officer should scrutinise the application, information sheet and consent form. If any changes are required, they should inform the student. If they are unsure of anything, or think that the work requires full AHEC review, they should contact the Chair of AHEC at hrc-ethics@york.ac.uk.

Students should note that ethics approval needs to be in place before research begins.