

Code of practice and principles for good ethical governance

Appendix A: Checklist of areas where ethical considerations are likely to arise

Ethical review will be necessary where academic activities involve any of the following (not mutually exclusive and not exhaustive):

1. Research or research-related activity involving humans, including through participation, observation and/or the collection/use of personal data (e.g. in relation to lifestyle, housing, working environment, attitudes and preferences), including images
2. Human tissue and/or other material
3. Animals
4. Potential or actual application of research findings to cause harm or infringe privacy (e.g. surveillance, defence)
5. Sensitive information, materials, techniques or findings, particularly those which might be subject to misuse in order to cause harm
6. Impact on and/or risk of damage to the environment (i.e. beyond that covered by standard laboratory health and safety procedures)
7. Involvement of sponsors/participants/associates whose connections or interests might impede or be perceived as impeding the impartiality of the research process from design through to publication/exploitation
8. Involvement of sponsors/associates with a controversial ethical record
9. Risk of psychological or physical harm to the researcher (beyond standard laboratory health and safety procedures)
10. Activities conducted overseas or in collaboration with overseas partners, in particular countries with emerging economies, and countries/under regimes with a poor human rights record or identified as dangerous by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

Where the issues are complex or unfamiliar, you are encouraged to seek informal advice from a member of the appropriate departmental/subject level ethics committee prior to submitting a project for review, referring on to the Chair/Secretary of the University Ethics Committee and/or the Registrar and Secretary where necessary. For projects involving areas of specialism outside your discipline (e.g. health), you should consider submission to an alternative ethics committee with experience in this area (see paragraph 3.8 of this Code).