

6. RESEARCH ETHICS

6.1 Research ethics at UWE Bristol

- 6.1.1 UWE Bristol is committed to promoting high ethical standards in the conduct of research undertaken by its staff and students. All research involving human participants, their tissues or data requires ethical approval by the University's Research Ethics Committee (UREC) or one of its Faculty Research Ethics Committees (FRECs) in accordance with the operating procedures set out in 6.3 below. Research that involves NHS or Social Care organisations, or involves human tissues, may also require review by an NHS REC or the Social Care REC, and guidance about approval pathways in these circumstances is available at: <http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/research/researchethics/applyingforapproval.aspx>.
- 6.1.2 Some student research which is 'low risk' may be approved by the student project Supervisor in accordance with the operating procedures relating to student projects. The University regards proper ethical conduct, including appropriate ethical review, as a central tenet of good research practice which must be observed by anyone conducting research at UWE Bristol.

6.2 University obligations

The University undertakes to keep its research ethics policy and guidance up to date with regular and timely review, and keep its research ethics review process fit for purpose. The University is committed to independence in ethical review, and the appropriate composition of research ethics committees (RECs), as set out, for example, in the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Research Ethics Framework. The University is also committed to adequately resourcing ethical review, including the following requirements set out in the ESRC Research Ethics Framework:

'Research organisations should provide the REC or RECs for which they are responsible with the necessary resources to carry out their responsibilities efficiently, effectively and independently. This includes, at a minimum, appropriate training for the members in the ethics, legal and scientific dimensions of the research that their REC reviews; adequate administrative and clerical support, and adequate resources, including recognition in workload planning and the allocation of academic responsibilities, to carry out reviews with due care and attention; and to attend meetings of the REC.'

6.3 Research ethics policy and procedures and researcher obligations

The UWE Bristol research this policy, procedures and guidance can be found at: <http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/research/researchethics>

These pages give information about how to apply for ethical approval, including information about how to apply to the National Research Ethics Service (NRES) where that is necessary. It is a requirement of all those conducting or supervising research at the University that they familiarise themselves with the Ethics Policy and guidelines, and follow the required procedures.