Ethical Approval for Non-Clinical Research Involving Human Participants

University Research Ethics Committee (UREC)

Terms of Reference

The University Research Ethics Committee (UREC) is responsible for upholding the ethical standards of practice in non-clinical research involving human participants in the University in order to protect participants and researchers from harm, preserve participants’ rights, and to provide reassurance to the public and funders regarding the ethical conduct of research at the University. It provides oversight, monitoring and guidance to the School Research Ethics Committees and acts as the first point of contact for the review and approval of proposals to access and use sensitive material for research purposes. UREC reports to the Research Governance and Policy Sub-Committee.

UREC is responsible for:

- Development of University policies and procedures for the ethical conduct of research
- Oversight of the work of School Research Ethics Committees (SRECs)
- Provision of guidance on research ethics issues to SRECs
- Monitoring of standards of ethical review and compliance with policies and procedures by researchers
- Ethical review and approval of cases referred to UREC where the SREC could not reach a decision, for instance due to complexity or conflicts of interest
- Hearing of appeals against decisions made by SRECs
- Reporting annually to Research Governance and Policy Sub-Committee
- Provision of support for ethics training by SRECs
- Acting as first point of contact for review and approval of proposals to access and use security-sensitive material for research purposes

Membership

- Convener
- Deputy Convener
- Representative from each School (Convener of SREC)
- Representative from Academic and Corporate Governance
- Lay member

The quorum is two-thirds of the membership.