

Policy on Ethical Approval of Research on Human Subjects in Taught Assessment

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document defines the University's policy on the ethical approval of research on human subjects that is carried out by students as part of assessments on taught programmes.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure that a consistent approach is applied when dealing with ethical approval of research on human subjects as part of assessments on taught programmes.

3. Scope

- 3.1 This policy applies to research on human subjects that is undertaken independently by undergraduate or postgraduate taught students, outside of a laboratory, lecture or seminar, and that is not directly supervised in person by a member of staff.
- 3.2 This policy covers reports, projects and dissertations that may require ethical approval for an element of research on human subjects within the assessed work of a taught programme.

4. The Policy

- 4.1 Responsibility for approving risk assessment and working in an ethical manner with human subjects is the responsibility of a unit teacher or dissertation supervisor.
- 4.2 Schools must have a procedure for ethical approval of research in taught assessments, which includes the completion of a risk assessment where appropriate.
- 4.3 The procedure must be explained to students within the course unit documentation.
- 4.5 Appeals with regards to a decision relating to Ethical Approval are permitted under [Regulation XIX \(Academic Appeals Procedure\)](#).
- 4.6 The School procedure must ensure that students receive instructions on how to work in a safe, ethical manner and be made aware of why this is important.
- 4.7 Students must be made aware that when they conduct independent research on human subjects, they have a responsibility to:

- ensure a risk assessment is completed when appropriate and that necessary measures are taken to mitigate significant risks;
- comply with instructions for working in a safe and ethical manner when engaging in an investigation involving human subjects;
- ensure that the independent research work completed does not deviate from that which has been approved;
- contact the relevant member(s) of staff, in advance, if the focus of the independent study is likely to change, to ensure that they will continue to work in a safe and ethical manner.

4.8 Students must not commence their independent research work until they have been given permission to proceed by their course unit teacher/supervisor. The course unit teacher/supervisor will only do this once they are satisfied that the risk assessment and/or ethics procedures have been satisfactorily completed. This aspect of the policy also applies to amendments to projects.

4.9 Should students fail to comply with the instruction from a unit teacher/supervisor with regards completing risk assessment and/or working in an ethical manner, they are liable to receive a fail mark for their work.

4.10 In extremely serious cases students may be referred to the University under [Regulation XVII](#) (Conduct and Discipline of Students). We do not want to see any student receive a fail mark or be referred under Regulation XVII and urge all students to take seriously risk assessments and ethical approval, and to follow the instructions of their unit teacher/supervisor. 4.11 General information about research ethics can also be sought from Research and Business Engagement Support Services at: <http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/services/rbess/governance/ethics/>

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Related Policies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on the Use of Animals in Research • Policy on the Ethical Use of Human Participants in Research
Related Procedures and Guidance:	The Assessment Framework
Policy owner:	Louise Walmsley, Director of Teaching and Learning and Support
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