

Queen Mary University of London PhD Induction

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Research Ethics

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Defining research

Research (as opposed to service evaluation/audit) is a systematic investigation which is carried out with the aim of developing or contributing to generalised knowledge.

Human research is any research conducted with or about *people, their data or tissue*. This can include:

- surveys, interviews, focus groups
- observations
- accessing personal documents
- collecting and using organs, tissue or fluids*
- clinical assessments*



* May require ethical review by an NHS REC

What is ethical behaviour in the context of research?

- Protect participants
- Strive for honesty in all scientific communications
- Avoid bias, careless errors and negligence
- Act with integrity
- Share data and results and disclose methods and information needed to evaluate your research
- Protect confidential communications



Approval routes

Low risk

- Must not involve vulnerable persons, nor raise sensitive issues that are likely to cause harm/upset/distress
- Ethical review conducted by the Research Ethics team... unless your department/school has an established DSREC (Devolved School Research Ethics Committee)

Panel review

- There are a set of questions in the research ethics application form to determine whether the study is moderate risk and requires Panel review.
- Panel review meetings and submission deadlines apply.
- Lead applicants are invited to attend the Ethics Committee meeting. Student and Supervisor always encouraged to invited.

Main QMERC

- Reserved for research that represents an unusually high level of risk to researchers, participants or the University (ie collecting security sensitive material).
- This is a meeting of the entire QMERC membership and takes place once a semester.

All research involving human participants, their data or human tissue samples, requires ethical review and approval **before** the research starts.

For more information about the review requirement and to access the research ethics application documents, please visit the **JRMO Research Ethics website**.

Or contact the team on

research-ethics@gmul.ac.uk



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