Does your research involve collecting data or biological samples from human participants?

If so, you need to be aware of the Open University’s research ethics guidelines and best practice which includes ethics review by the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). The HREC supports OU research by advising and reviewing any projects involving humans and human materials.

It is essential that no potential participants are approached until such research has been fully assessed by the HREC, therefore when planning your work and ethics application, you need to build in sufficient time (up to 4 working weeks for a full review), so there is no risk of your research being delayed. Particularly, for example, if you need to plan overseas travel or interviews with participants.

For more information and advice visit the Research Ethics website: [http://www.open.ac.uk/research/ethics/](http://www.open.ac.uk/research/ethics/) or email: Research-REC-Review@open.ac.uk.