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

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

It is essential that no potential participants are approached until your proposal has been fully assessed by the HREC, therefore you need to build in sufficient time when planning your research and ethics application - 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/ or email: Research-REC-Review@open.ac.uk.