Research ethics: changes to research

If you are planning to make either minor or major changes or amendments to your research, you will need to inform the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) prior to implementation, as the changes will have to be agreed and recorded so there is an accurate record of your research. Some examples are given below, and if you have any queries please get in contact via Research-REC-Review@open.ac.uk or tel: 01908 654858.

**Minor changes or amendments**

- Change in title
- Change in PI
- Change in date
- Small changes to number of participants

**Major changes or amendments**

- Change in PI – may depend on change details
- Any change in methodology:
  - Reimbursing participants
  - Participant contact, e.g.:
    - Online survey to face to face interviews or vice versa
    - Focus group
    - Observation
    - Public events
    - Audio or audio-visual recording
- Significant change in participant type, i.e.
  - Age range
  - Non-vulnerable to vulnerable participants
- Change in location/geography – this may reduce or pose additional risks due to political or geographical instability
- Change in outputs – e.g. from report to published article
- Consent forms – General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)