



Bitesize Guide: Research Ethics and Integrity

Research is subject to rigorous safeguards, such as research ethics processes, standards for professional practice and wider legal obligations.

The application of a robust ethics structure is an integral part of good research practice. It ensures that research is conducted safely and meets agreed principles, standards and codes of practice; and that it produces knowledge that benefits participants and society, while developing and expanding academic understanding of the subject area.

Research ethics is an ever-changing field, informed and shaped by three key factors:

- the innovative processes and outcomes generated by research that push and extend existing boundaries of knowledge and practice
- the expectations of professional and statutory bodies
- the expectations of the general public and society

At the heart of this is the key principle that governs all research involving human participants, personal data and human tissue: respect for the participants' welfare and rights.

Researchers have an absolute obligation to ensure that their research is conducted ethically and with the minimum possible risk to all those involved or affected by it.



Help me...

The Concordat to Support Research Integrity is an agreement to promote the highest standards in research. Launched in 2012, the Concordat aims to provide a comprehensive national framework for good research conduct and has been jointly signed up to by Universities UK, UKRI, the Wellcome Trust and UK government departments. It is available from the Universities UK website at:

<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Documents/2012/the-concordat-to-support-research-integrity.pdf>

Further information is also available on the Research Ethics and Governance pages of the Northumbria University website, where you will find:

- Northumbria's Ethics and Governance Handbook
- a link to the Ethics Online approval system
- NHS-related guidance, and more:

<https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/research/ethics-and-governance/>

