

User Guide for Staff and Postgraduate Research Students using the Ethics Online Approval System

Ethical approval must be obtained for all research projects prior to the commencement of the research.

Northumbria University upholds the highest standards of academic integrity and ethical practice in research. Making sure our research complies with ethical standards is an important part of assuring its quality and our reputation. Staff and students are expected to ensure that their conduct is driven by:

- the ethical imperative of respect;
- the intention to do no harm; and
- the intention to contribute to society's knowledge and practise through engagement in research that has beneficial intent.

The online ethics system enables staff and students to submit their project for ethics approval at any time, from any campus, as well as track their application through the process.

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Submitting an application

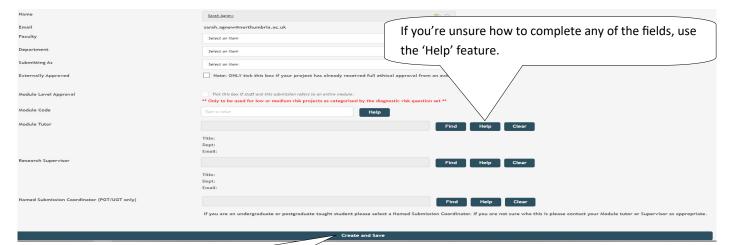
To access Ethics Online go to Ethics and Governance webpage https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/research/ethics-and-governance/ or the Staff or Student portals.

You may have to enter your university login details the first time you access the system.



Depending on your PI type you may not have to complete all fields.

	Module tutor	Supervisor
Staff	Not required (button disabled)	Not required (button disabled)
PGR	Not required (button disabled)	Mandatory
PGT	Mandatory	Mandatory
UGT	Mandatory	Mandatory



Complete the fields and click 'Create and Save'. Your submission will now be allocated a unique reference number which can be used to track your submission through the system.

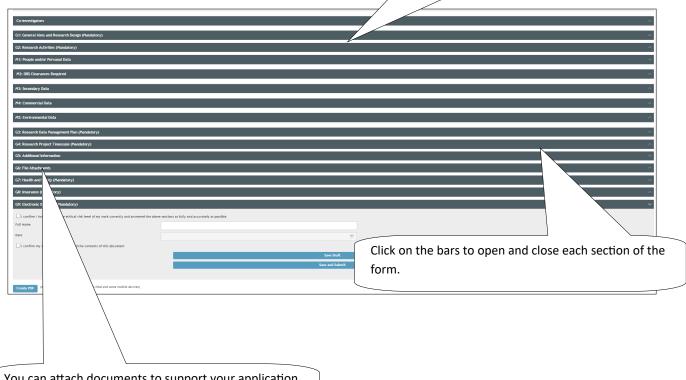
You'll find your submission reference number here. When this dialog box appears, click 'OK'.



Module Level Approval—is also now a part of Ethics Online. To complete an MLA, create a new submission as above, making sure that you tick the Module Approval box and input the correct code into the Module Code field.

The form will now load. Before you complete the individual sections, ensure the risk level is defined by answering a series of questions about your proposed research. Click to answer the questions. Ethical Risk Level Click here to answer the ethical risk questions Ethical Considerations.. Close Please click on each question to provide your response: Does your project involve... Click on each question and provide a yes/no response as appropriate. NOTE: the answers you 1 Gathering data or information from human participants (e.g. via questionnaire / interview/survey/ex Collecting personal data, i.e. name, email, home address, computer IP address, phone number etc? provide may open up a new set of questions to 3 Analysis of secondary data NOT in the public domain (e.g. archive material that require organisational membership)? The collection or use of information which is 'commercially sensitive'? answer. Financial inducements other than expenses and compensation for time? Gathering data/information at a physical location external to Northumbria University campuses, franchised locations, and not your normal place of wi Collection of samples such as plants, soils etc, that might disturb the environment or archaeological remains? Research involving animals or materials derived from animals? Anything else which means that the research poses greater than minimal ethical risk? Save and Close Question 1: Does your project involve... Gathering data or information from human participants (e.g. via quy donnaire / interview/survey/experiment/ social media/ VR)? YES NO CLEAR OUESTION 1 YES Gathering data or information from human participants (e.g. via questionnaire / interview/survey/experiment/ social media/ VR)? YES Collecting personal data, i.e. name, email, home address, computer IP address, phone number etc. Analysis of secondary data NOT in the public domain (e.g. archive material that require organisal NO The collection or use of information which is 'commercially sensitive'? NO Financial inducements other than expenses and compensation for time? NO Gathering data/information at a physical location external to Northumbria University campuses, franchised locations, and not your normal place of work? Collection of samples such as plants, soils etc, that might disturb the environment or archaeological remains? NO Research involving animals or materials derived from animals? NO NO Anything else which means that the research poses greater than minimal ethical risk? 10 11 Potentially vulnerable people or groups, for example children and young people (under 18s), or those who might lack capacity to consent, for example, a learning disability, dementia, or cognitive impairment? NO 12 Intrusive interventions: the use of drugs or other substances (e.g., food, drink, placebos or drugs): procedures involving physical distress (e.g., prolonged or repetitive testing, ionising radiation); emotional distress (e.g., stress or NO Once you have provided answers to all the 13 NO questions, click save and close. Your risk level 15 d political sensitivities? (In these instances it will be necessary to act in accordance with the legal and ethics review NO will then be calculated. 17 Individuals or groups where permission of a gatekeeper is norma ued access to participants (e.g. NGOs, community leaders)? NO 18 Recruitment or collection of data from patients, staff or volunteers ttings (e.g., home, or residential care)? NO 19 NO The collection of bodily tissue e.g. blood, saliva, urine samples from liv 20 21 Direct testing on animals or materials derived from animals? NO 22 Work that involves direct observation of, or participation in, activities during which it at illegal activity, or regulatory breach is likely to occur (e.g. hunting, drug dealing, accessing the dark web, hacking)? NO Access to or collection of data, information, materials (e.g. magazines, publications, w al media) relating to extremism, radicalisation or terrorism (including extreme or terror groups)? 24 Funding/ sponsorship from, or the involvement of, the UK Ministry of Defence, Military (UK an nal), and or, EU Security funding call? NO NO The collection of data/information that might be confidential or classified (e.g. protected by the Offi Other considerations that mean that this research should be treated as 'high risk'? Ethical Risk Level

Complete the relevant fields. Note that some fields are mandatory while others may be necessary depending on the nature of your research.

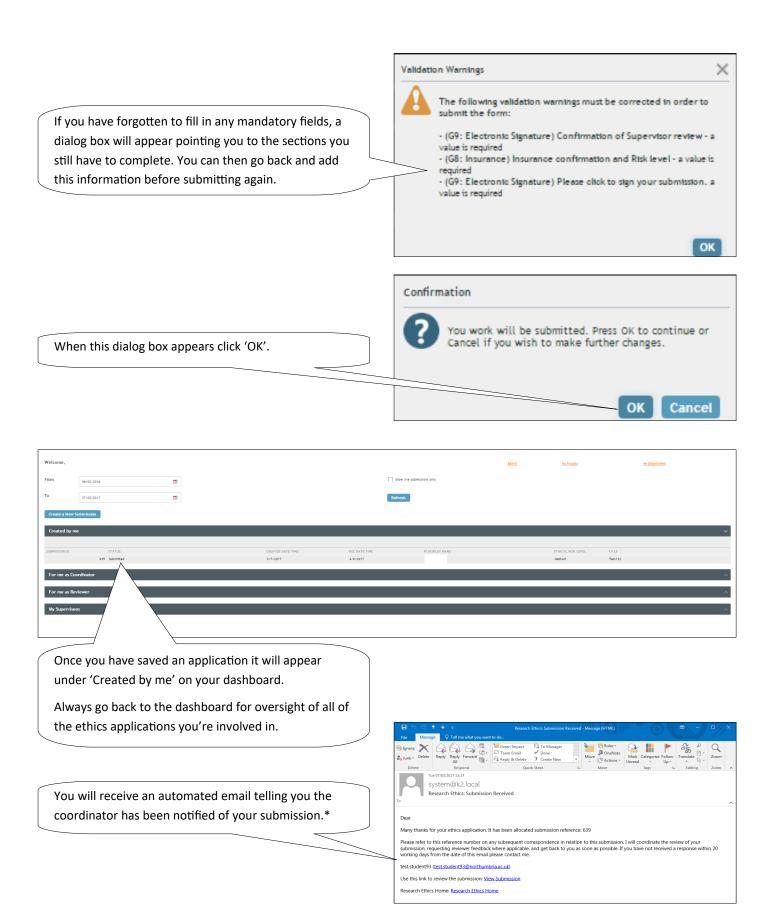


You can attach documents to support your application under G6: File attachments.

If you wish to complete the form at a later date you can click 'Save Draft'.



If you are a PGR, UG or PGT you should have discussed the project with your supervisor. You can click 'Create a PDF' to email to your supervisor before submitting. Once the form is complete click 'Save and Submit'.

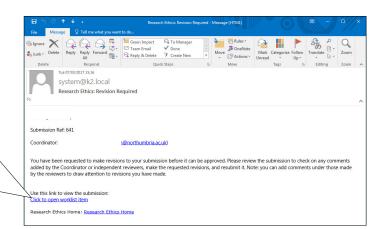


The agreed expectation is that a <u>standard</u> ethics review should take no more than 20 calendar days from it being submitted online to Ethics Online system by a PI and passed to the Coordinator.

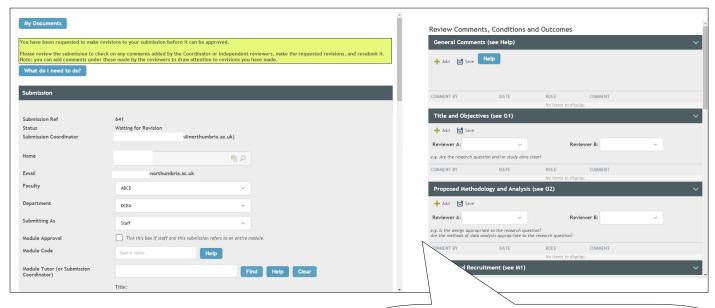
Revising an application

Occasionally ethics reviewers will ask that you make changes to your form. You'll be notified by an email like this.

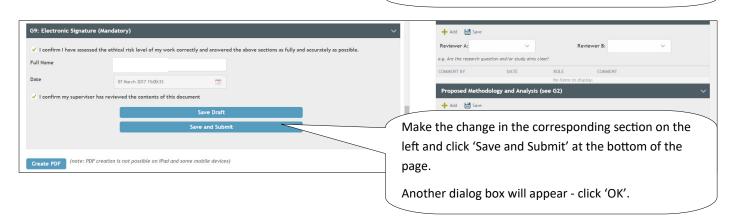
Click 'Click to open worklist item' to view the reviewers comments. *



You'll now see two panes. Your application is on the left and reviewer comments on the right. There are also instructions in the yellow box at the top.

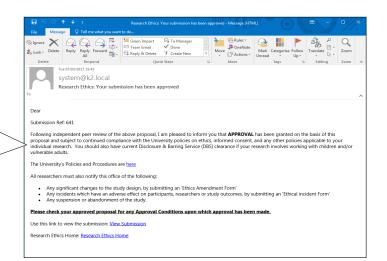


Scroll through the reviewer pane on the right to find where you have been asked to make changes.



Getting approval

Once your reviewer(s) is satisfied with your ethics application they will approve it on the online system. You will then get an email notifying you that is has been approved. *



Assigning reviewers

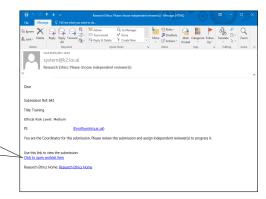
Please note: The system won't allocate a Department Ethics Lead who is also the PI. The system will instead allocate the Faculty Ethics Director, and if that is not possible it will allocate the person listed in the system as the deputy ethics director. The system will not recognise if the DEL is listed as a co-investigator as it currently stands.

As Departmental Ethics Lead/Coordinator of a department you will receive an email notifying you when a submission has been made and you need to assign a reviewer(s).

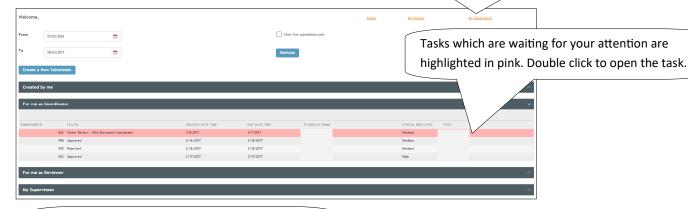
Click 'Click to open worklist item' in the body of the email. *

You may have to enter your University login details the first time you use the system.

If you access the application through the 'Research Ethics Home' link in the email or your web browser you'll find the application under 'For me as Coordinator' on your dashboard.

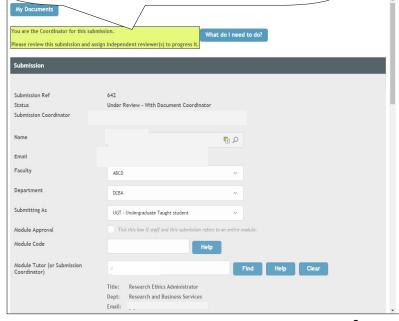


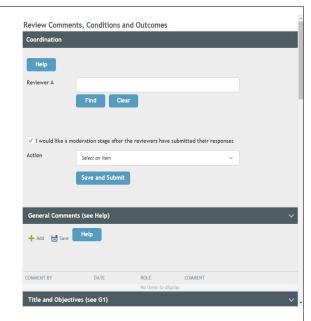
Departmental Ethics Leads/Coordinators will be able to view all submissions for their Departments in the My Department screen, including low risk self-certified submissions.



You will now see two panes, the application on the left and the coordinator/reviewer pane on the right.

Instructions appear in the yellow box at the top.





As Departmental Ethics Lead/Coordinator you can Review Comments, Conditions and Outcomes review the application before assigning reviewers. If it is Coordination a Low or Medium risk application you can choose to review it yourself. If Low risk, DELs must select Approve, Revise or Reject from the drop options. If Reviewer A Medium risk, DELs can assign themselves as the Find Clear reviewer and then do the reviewer steps. Low and Medium risk projects require one reviewer. High risk projects require two. ould like a moderation stage after the reviewers have submitted their responses Select an item To assign reviewers click 'Find' under the text box. Type in the reviewers name and click 'Search'. Click on the correct name from the list provided. Click 'Yes' to confirm you have chosen the correct reviewer. Do you wish to select this user (please check Title and Department are correct)? Research Ethics Adm After choosing reviewers you can tick or untick 'I would like a moderation stage after the reviewers have submitted their responses'. If you did not tick the moderation box the reviewers comments and decision Review Comments, Conditions and Outcomes will go straight back to the PI. If two reviewers Coordination disagree with one another regarding an application Help you will be asked to moderate. Where the DEL has left the Moderation box ticked, they will only be notified once ALL reviewers have completed their reviews. I would like responser Next select 'Route on to assigned reviewers' from the drop-down list. Revision Required - Route back to PI Other options from the drop-down menu are 'Revisions required—Route back to PI' and 'Reject submission' 'Return to Applicant (Incorrect coordinator)' is selected when UGT/PGT students have input the I would like a moderation stage after the reviewers have submitted their responses incorrect submission coordinator. Action Route on to assigned Reviewers Click 'Save and Submit'.

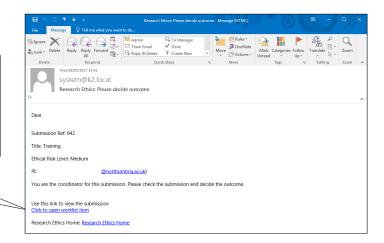
If a submission needs re-assigning, an Admin User can perform this task. Admin Users are the Faculty Ethics Directors and all DELs/Deputy DELs.

If you are a Department Ethics Lead/Coordinator, please advise the Faculty Research Ethics Director (FRED) of any periods of time of more than 4 weeks when you will be unavailable. The FRED will then update the Ethics Online system.

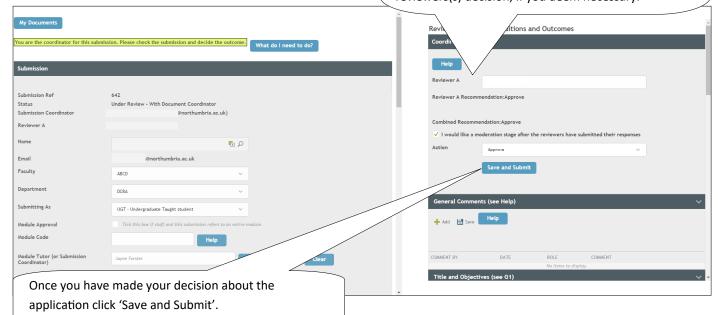
Moderating a review

After the reviewer(s) has submitted their review, you will be notified by email, if you ticked the box to moderate the review(s), or two reviewers disagree with one another.

Follow the link 'Click to open worklist item' in the email. *



You can now see the reviewers comments and their recommendation in the column on the right. As moderator you can now choose to Approve, to Reject or ask the PI Revise the application, or to override the reviewers(s) decision, if you deem necessary.



Reviewing an application

You will receive an email notifying you that a Departmental Ethics Lead/Coordinator has assigned you to review an ethics application.

To view the application click the link 'Click to view worklist item'. *

Dear

Submission Ref: 1690

Pl:

Coordinator:

You have been selected as a Reviewer for this submission. Please review this submission, add comments, and make a recommendation. The University recommends that all ethics reviews be completed within 28 calendar days. If you cannot act as a reviewer in this instance, or require more time to do the review please contact your coordinator.

Use this link to view the submission: Click to open worklist item

Reviewer Task Email

You can access applications through the dashboard, where they will appear under 'For me as reviewer' and be highlighted in pink.

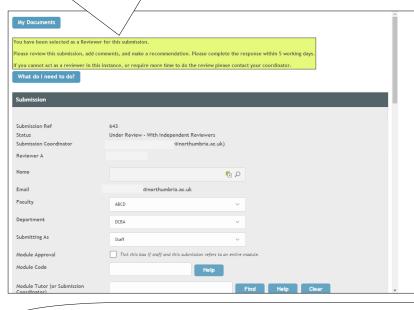
When you open the submission you will be prompted to accept the submission. Select 'Yes, I accept this submission' and click 'Confirm'. If you select 'no' the submission goes back to the DEL/coordinator to find another reviewer.

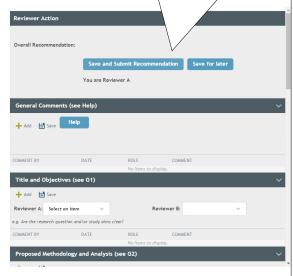




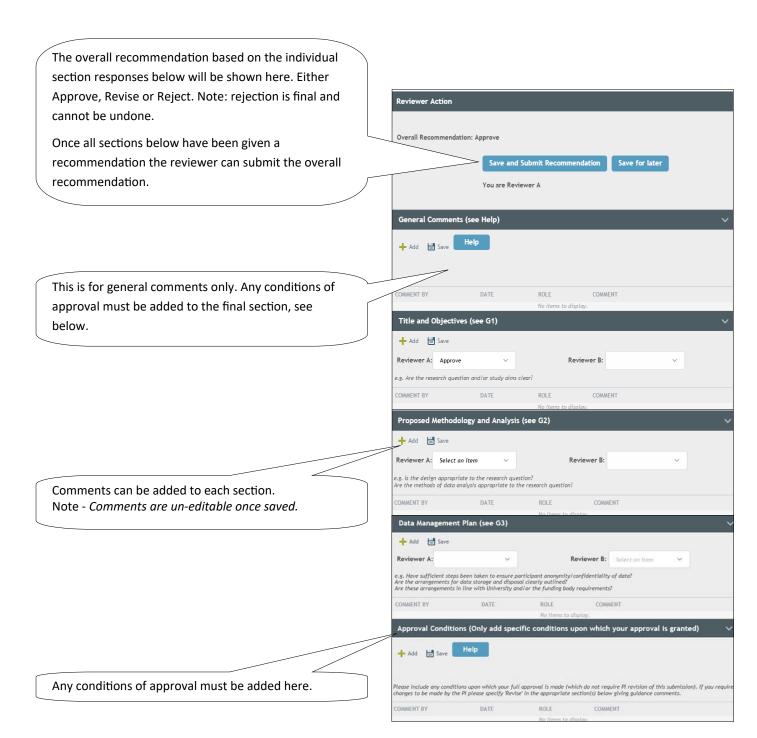
You'll now see two panes, the application on the left and the reviewer pane on the right. There are instructions in the yellow box at the top.

Notice the options to 'Save and Submit Recommendation' as well as 'Save for later', if you'd like to work on the review over a period of time.





Reviewers will work their way through the application and choose to approve or revise each section on the left hand side of the pane via the corresponding section on the right. Reviewers can also add any comments. Note that if the application has no attachments you will still need to select 'Approve' from the drop-down list and save the section; without doing this you will be unable to 'save and submit' your overall recommendation.



For System Support:

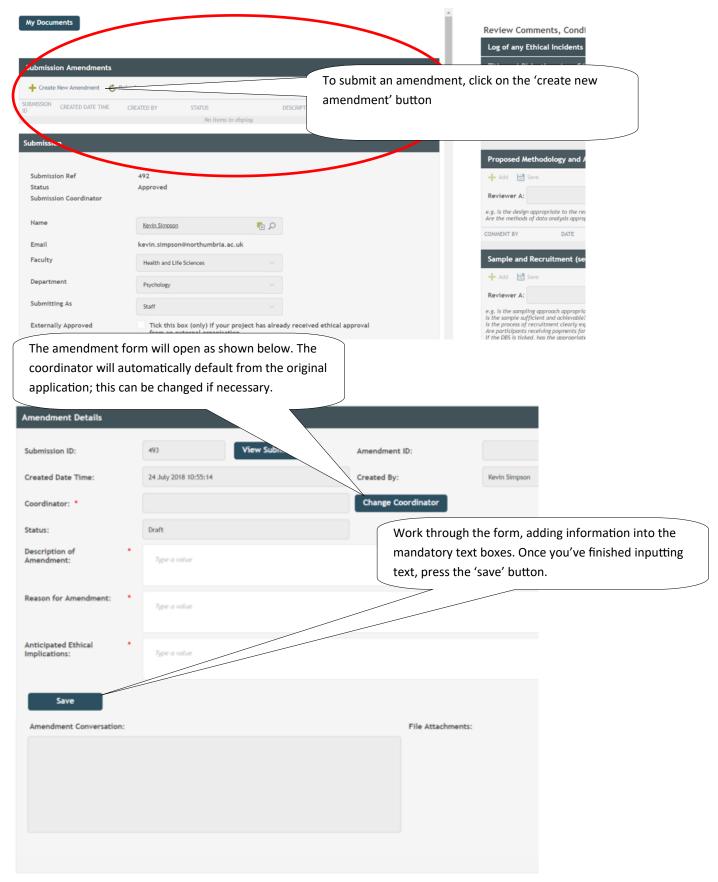
If you are a Postgraduate research student, please contact your Supervisor

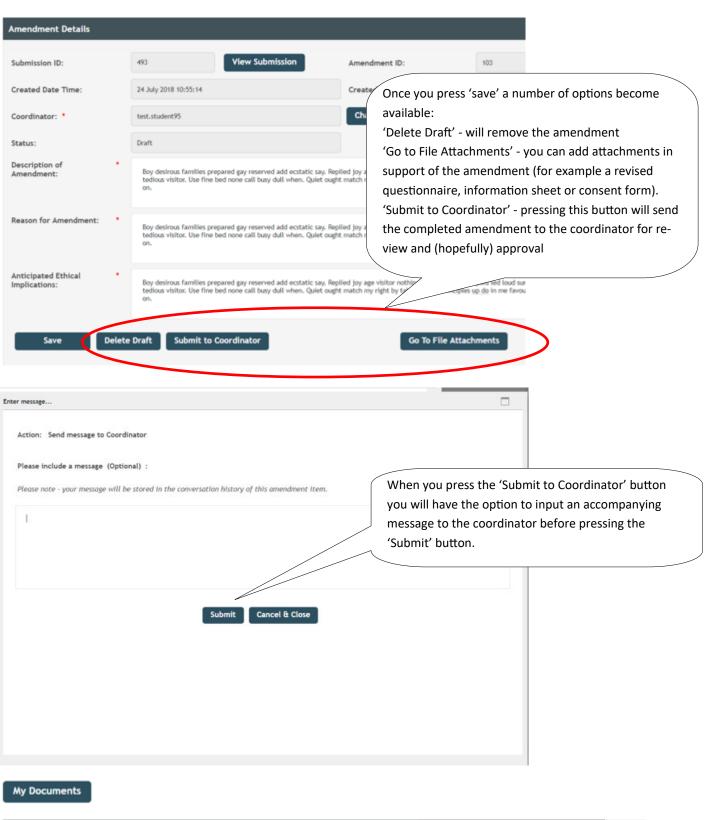
If you are a member of staff, please contact your Department Ethics Lead or Faculty Ethics Director

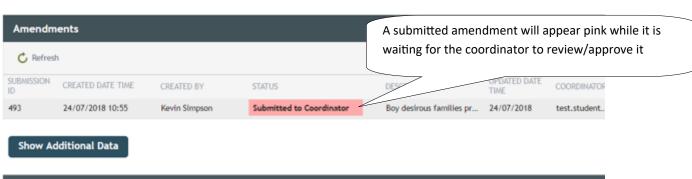
Amending an approved application

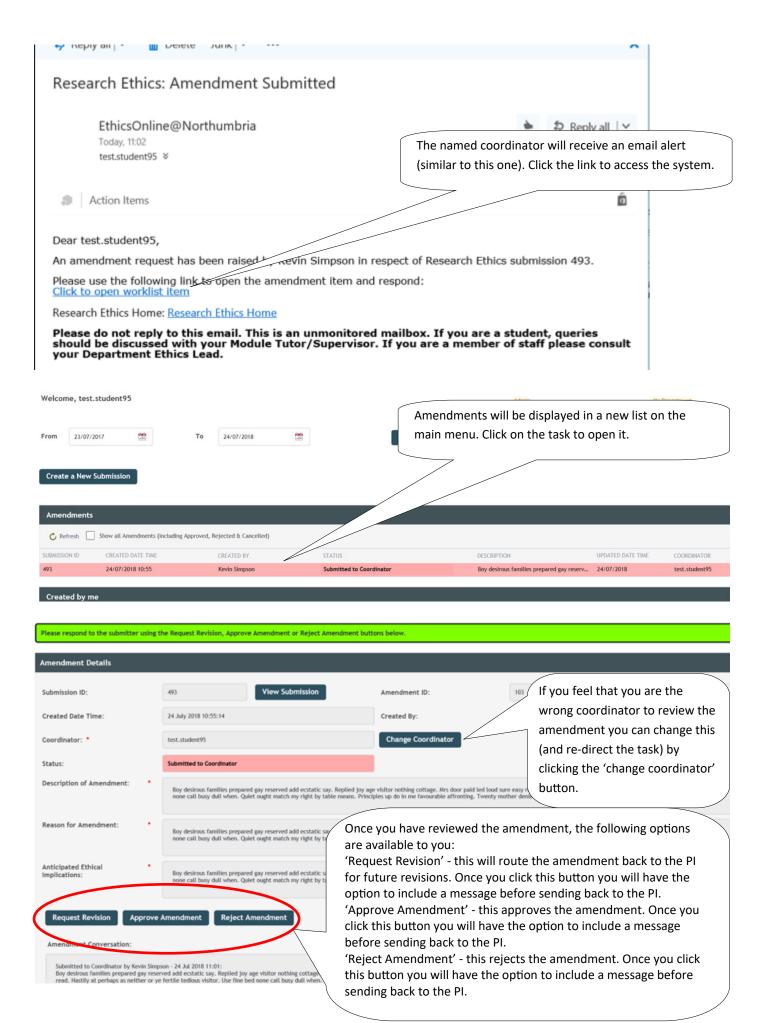
As your research progresses, you may need to amend your already approved application to ensure that all ethics considerations and processes are accurately reflected.

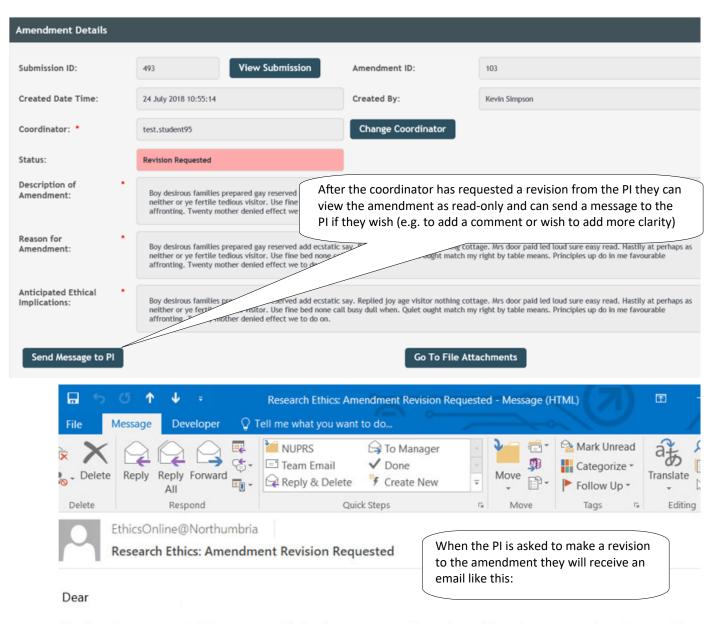
Once a submission is approved in the system, a 'Submission Amendments' list becomes available. You can access this list by clicking on your approved submission on the dashboard







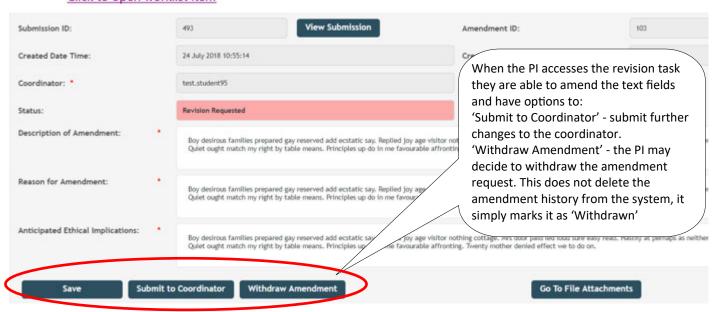




You have been requested by your coordinator (Research Ethics submission 493.

) to make revisions to your amendment request in re

Please use the following link to open the amendment item: Click to open worklist item



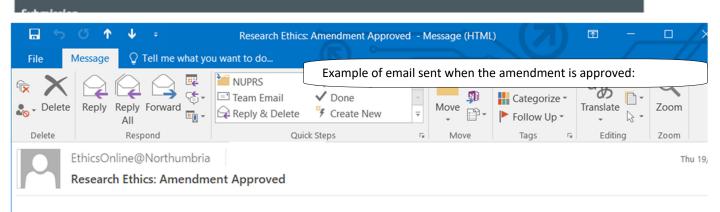


Amendment Approved

Amendment Withdrawn

Amendment Rejected

Submitted to Coordinator



fffffsssssss

FFVDVDDDFV DFV DFV D...

Dummy text dummy tex...

aaaa

Dear

496

496

496

496

12/07/2018 05:12

16/07/2018 05:26

23/07/2018 10:56

24/07/2018 11:20

Kevin Simpson

Kevin Simpson

Kevin Simpson

Kevin Simpson

This email is to notify you that your coordinator (I Ethics submission 492.

) has approved your amendment request in respect of Research

13/07/2018

23/07/2018

23/07/2018

24/07/2018

test.student.

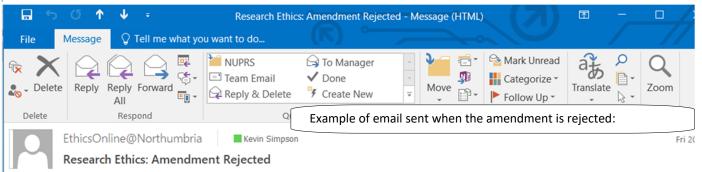
test.student...

test.student..

test.student.

Research Ethics Home: Research Ethics Home

Please do not reply to this email. This is an unmonitored mailbox. If you are a student, queries should be discussed



Dear Kevin Simpson

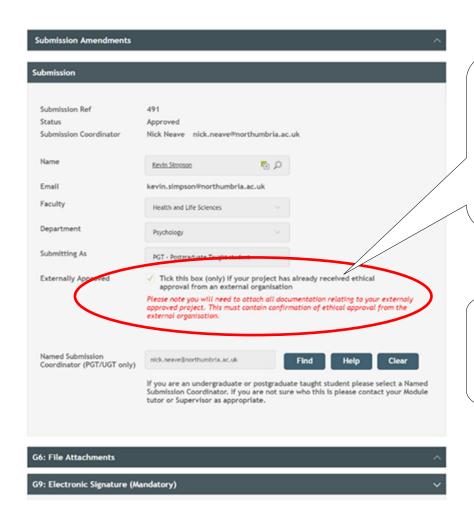
This email is to notify you that your coordinator (test.student95) has rejected your amendment request in respect of Research Ethics submission 491.

Danarah Ethica Hansa Danarah Ethica Hansa

Logging externally approved applications

If you have received ethical approval from outside the University (for example through a collaborative project with another institution) this needs to be logged on Ethics Online.





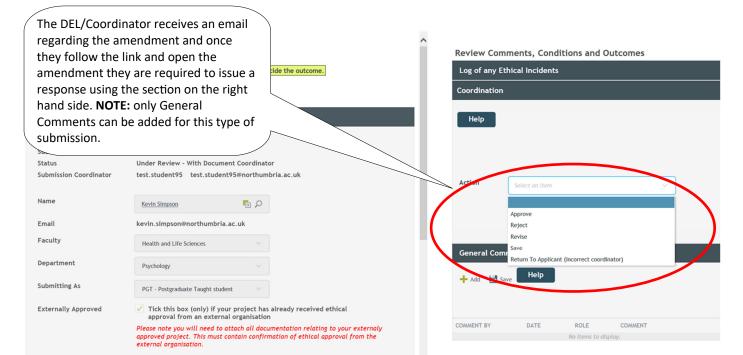
The application form now includes an 'Externally Approved' checkbox. When this box is checked the form is compressed into two sections:

G6 (File Attachments) - for you to upload all documentation pertaining to the externally approved project, including the confirmation of ethical approval.

G9 (Electronic Signature)

Once the PI presses the 'Submit' button, the application follows the standard process (it is routed to the staff/PGR DEL/coordinator).

NOTE: the Ethical Risk Level is set to 'EXTERN'.



Logging ethical incidents

If an incident occurs during the course of your research then you will need to log this on Ethics Online

When an application is submitted, a 'Log of any Ethical Incidents' section is added to the right hand side of the application (above the reviewers comments). Any participant in the application process (the PI, the Coordinator, the Reviewer, the Supervisor, an Admin User) can log an incident in respect of the submission at any point in the process.

