

Introduction to Coventry Research Ethics

V1.2 updated 13/08/21

**Ranked No.15
UK University**

Guardian University
Guide 2020

**University of the Year
for Student Experience**

The Times and Sunday Times
Good University Guide 2019

**Queen's Award
for Enterprise**

International Trade 2015

CU Ethics Policy & Expectations

Coventry University Research Conduct and Ethics Policy

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Coventry University is committed to ensuring that the following research ethics objectives are achieved:

- 1) To ensure that any research activity undertaken by staff or students meets the highest standards and is compliant with the code of practice issued by the UKRIO and the UK Concordat on Research Integrity.
- 2) To ensure that risks relating to sensitive projects which may have a profound impact on the environment, communities or individuals are proportionately controlled without exposing individuals, or the environment, to unnecessary risk.
- 3) To ensure that projects involving animals, humans, human material or human data are only permitted when there is no alternative research technique and the expected benefits outweigh any possible adverse effects.

Coventry University Research Ethics – Elements



- 1) CU Research Ethics Statement
- 2) Group Research Conduct and Ethics Policy
- 3) University Research Ethics Committee
- 4) CU Ethics approval system
- 5) Research Integrity Training and Development Framework



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Coventry University Research Ethics Statement (1)



Coventry University requires all research to be submitted for ethical review and clearance as a matter of priority.

All staff and students are required to obtain ethical approval before undertaking any research.

Approval may also be required for other, non-research, activities involving human participants. Staff are responsible for following the internal process and supervisors of students are responsible for ensuring that their students do the same.

Coventry University Research Ethics Statement (2)



The Group **University Research Ethics Committee** is responsible for ensuring that any research activity undertaken by staff or students meets the highest ethical standards and is in line with its policy on governance.

These **principles and standards apply to all research** irrespective of whether it is unfunded, internally funded or externally funded through Research Councils, other public monies, or any other sources.

Coventry University Research Ethics Statement (3)



Ethical approval is required before undertaking any:

- Research, design studies, product development, artistic studies or experiments.
- Survey work, questionnaires, interviews, focus groups or case studies.

The university may require ethical approval for:

- Controversial or non-controversial literary or artistic works.
- Paid or un-paid internal or external consultancy work.

Coventry University Research Ethics Statement (4)



This is especially true if the activity requires or could involve:

- Active or unintentional participation by human participants.
- The use of tissue, cells, genetic material or body fluids from living or dead human participants (this is also covered under the Human Tissue Act 2007).
- Actual or potential disclosure and storage of personal or confidential information (this is also covered by the Data Protection Act 2018).
- An ethical, safety, moral or legal dilemma for the researcher and/or participants in allowing the activity to proceed.

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Group Research Conduct and Ethics Policy

Sets out the principles and mandated standards in relation to the management of research conduct and ethics risks

The Group has established nine principles for the management of ethical research:

1. Culture
2. Honesty
3. Rigour
4. Integrity
5. Co-operation
6. Accountability
7. Transparency and open communication
8. Training and skills
9. Care, respect and safety

Group Research Conduct and Ethics Policy – Principles

1. Culture

The Group will maintain a research environment that develops good research practice and nurtures a culture of research integrity. The Group will ensure that all individuals conducting research on the Group's behalf understand the expected standards, values and behaviour and will defend them in all circumstances.

Group Research Conduct and Ethics Policy – Principles

2. Honesty

The Group works to create a culture of honesty in research.

Staff and students and other researchers working on behalf of the Group should do their utmost to ensure the accuracy of data and results, acknowledge the contribution of others and neither engage in misconduct nor support it.

Group Research Conduct and Ethics Policy

– Principles

3. Rigour

The Group and individuals undertaking research on the Group's behalf must adhere to agreed protocols where appropriate, in drawing interpretations and conclusions from the research and in communicating the results.

Group Research Conduct and Ethics Policy

– Principles

4. Integrity

The Group and individuals undertaking research on its behalf (staff, students or third parties) must comply with all legal and ethical requirements relevant to their fields of study.

They should declare any potential or actual conflicts of interest relating to research and where necessary take steps to resolve them.

Group Research Conduct and Ethics Policy

– Principles

5. Co-operation

The Group and individuals undertaking research on its behalf should promote the open exchange of ideas, research methods, data and results and their discussion, scrutiny and debate, subject to any considerations of confidentiality.

Group Research Conduct and Ethics Policy

– Principles

6. **Accountability**

The Group and individuals undertaking research on its behalf should recognise that in and through their work they are accountable to the general public and should act accordingly. They should ensure that any research undertaken complies with terms and conditions relating to the project and allows for proper governance and transparency. Researchers who are members of a regulated profession must follow the requirements and guidance of the body regulating their profession.

Group Research Conduct and Ethics Policy – Principles

7. Transparency and open communication

The Group and individuals undertaking research on the Group's behalf should declare conflicts of interest. The Group recognises the need for open and transparent communication in the reporting of research data collection methods, the analysis and interpretation of data, in making research findings widely available, in sharing negative results as appropriate and in presenting work to the wider public.

Group Research Conduct and Ethics Policy – Principles

8. Training and skills

The Group and individuals directing or supervising research on its behalf should provide training and opportunities for development for researchers and the necessary resources to enable them to conduct research to the required standards. Researchers should ensure that they have the necessary skills, training and resources to carry out research in the proposed research team or through collaboration with specialists in relevant fields, and report and resolve any urgent needs identified

Group Research Conduct and Ethics Policy

– Principles

9. Care, respect and safety

The Group and its researchers should ensure that the dignity, rights, safety and wellbeing of all involved in research and avoid unreasonable risk or harm to research subjects, patients, participants, researchers and others. They should report and address any concerns relating to dignity, rights, safety and well-being of those involved in research. Research should only be initiated and continued if the anticipated benefits justify the risks involved.

Coventry University Research Ethics – Elements



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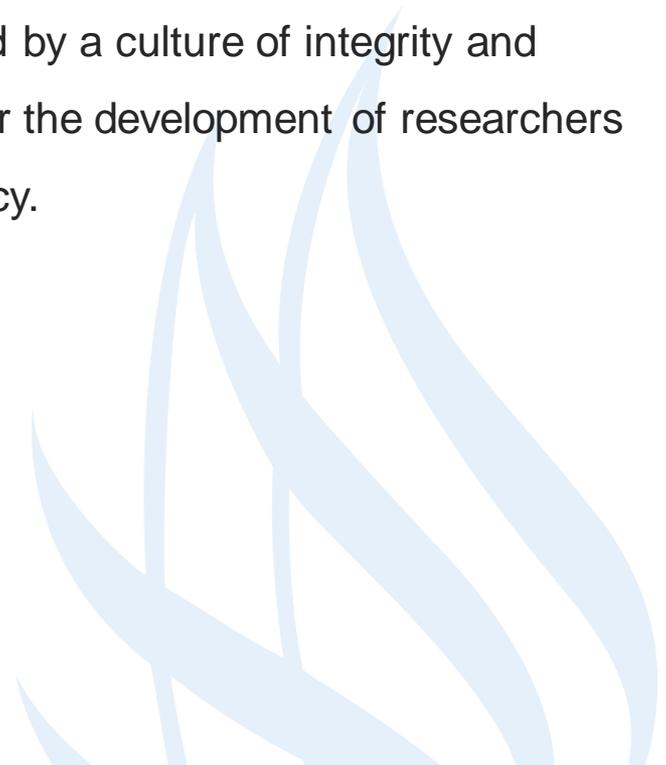


University Research Ethics Committee (1)



The overarching responsibility of the University Group Research Ethics Committee (REC) is to promote a research environment that is underpinned by a culture of integrity and based on good governance, best practice and support for the development of researchers in line with the Group Research Conduct and Ethics Policy.

The REC reports to University Research Committee.



University Research Ethics Committee (2)

The committee has the interlinked functions of:

- Providing support and advice to researchers and others on matters relating to research integrity
- Working in conjunction with faculties and research institutes, ensuring that any ethics issues associated with research projects conducted by university staff or students of any level (and whether externally or internally funded) have been appropriately considered, addressed, and approved before the projects begin, and good ethical practice is employed as projects are delivered.

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CU Ethics Approval Process

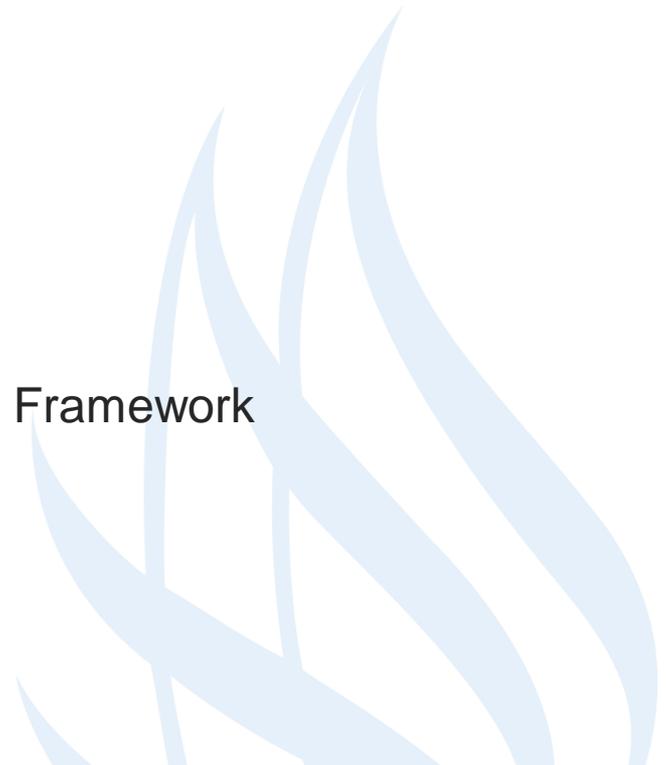
[CU Ethics Online](#) is the University's Ethics Application and Authorisation System where staff and students apply for ethical approval for research projects.

The CU Ethics approval process is covered in: [Submitting an Ethics Application](#).

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Research Integrity and Ethics Training and Development Framework

The Group Research Ethics Committee have developed the [CU Research Integrity and Ethics Training and Development Framework](#) to enable staff and PGR researchers develop the skills to conduct research to the required standards including research ethics and integrity.

All CU researchers should undertake four on-line self-study courses in Research Integrity and Research Ethics (E1, E2a, E2b, E2c) with additional optional courses depending on the individual's development needs.

If you have any questions,
please contact your
[local ethics administrator](#)

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