

Routes for Applications according to Research classification

Table 1

Class	Definition	Who can approve?	Best Practice	Which Form/s?
Class 1	Research which falls within the definition of the Code and which, after due consideration has been found to have no or minimal ethical implications	Approval not usually required	Consider and complete Form Part A (UREC) and retain for your own or Faculty record	Form Part A or similar local diagnostic tool
Class 2	Research which falls within the definition of the Code, has clear ethical implications and which may cause, or has the potential to cause, harm in any form to participants, investigator, animals or the environment	UREC or D/FREC	Submit Application for Ethical Approval to relevant ethical approval body in line with the Code and any professional codes of ethics and best practice	Consider and complete Form Part A and Form Part B (UREC) or local relevant form/s
Class 3A	Research for which ethics approval from an external body may be required	The relevant external ethical approval body in line with the Code, national legislation and governance frameworks (e.g. NHS Research Ethics Committees or Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency {MHRA})	Class 3A lies outside the remit of UREC or D/FRECs, and therefore timely approval, in line with research governance must be sought; See UoW NHS governance guidance.	Consider and complete Ethical Approval Application Form/s for the appropriate external ethics body
Class 3B	Where the University is required by an external body to confirm research ethics approval	UREC	advice and consideration may be given by an D/FREC or advisor but final ethical consideration and/or approval can only be obtained at institutional level, where a confirmation sign-off can occur	Consider and complete Ethical Approval Application Form/s if research falls into Class 2. If no ethical implications but institutional confirmation is still required by the external body complete Form Part A and submit to the UREC for sign-off
Class 4	Research which is considered to have a significant high risk of harm	UREC	advice and consideration may be given by an D/FREC or advisor but final ethical consideration and/or approval can only be obtained at institutional level, where a confirmation sign-off can occur	Part A and Part B to be submitted to UREC for consideration