

Routes for Applications according to Research classification

Table 1

Class	Definition	Who can approve?	Procedure	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 (unless it is a requirement of an external body)	<p>Consider and complete Form Part A (University's online research ethics system) and retain for your own and College record</p> <p>Where there is an external requirement for ethical review, even for low or no risk research, the Form Part A (University's online research ethics system) should be submitted to CREC.</p>	Form Part A (research ethics self-assessment form) or similar local diagnostic tool
Class 2	Research which falls within the definition of the Code, has clear potential ethical implications and which may cause, or has the potential to cause, harm in any form to participants, donors, investigator, animals, the environment or others.	CREC (can escalate to UREC where necessary)	Submit a Research Ethics Application 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 (University's online research ethics system).

Class 3:	Research for which ethics approval from an external body is 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 3 lies outside the remit of UREC or CRECs, and therefore timely submission, in line with research governance requirements is necessary. An initial light-touch research ethics review is carried out by CREC, except in the case of requests from University staff and students for Health Research Authority defined Sponsorship whereby the light-touch ethics review would be conducted by UREC.	Consider and complete Research Ethics Application Forms and provide a draft of the external ethics application form For an initial light touch review to CREC or UREC as appropriate.
				Sponsorship requests are considered by the University following a successful internal light-touch research ethics review. Contact the Research Office for guidance.
Class 4	Research which is considered to have a significant high potential risk of harm including to the University or the University's reputation	UREC	advice and consideration may be given by an CREC but final ethical consideration and approval can only be obtained at institutional level (UREC), where a confirmation sign-off can occur, on occasion in liaison with other bodies at the University, including senior management.	Consider and complete the Research Ethics Application Form (Part A and Part B) to be submitted to UREC for consideration . Class 4 may be applied as a research classification by a College or University Research Ethics Committee at its discretion.