

Risk Checklist (University of Sussex ethics application form).

This is dynamic form, so the questions may change depending on how you answer.

Does your project involve any of the following?

A physical risk to participants and/or the researcher

e.g. collection of human materials, administration of food, drugs, placebos or other substances, the use, production, storage, waste, transportation and/or release of chemicals and hazardous (biological agents, flammable/dangerous/explosive substances, biological agents etc.) or equipment, the use of physical agents (excessive noise exposure, ionizing radiation, electromagnetic fields) or use of invasive or potentially harmful procedures.

- **If YES - Please describe any physical risk to participants and explain how they will be mitigated. Please include the Risk Assessment for your lab or project.**

Potential to induce psychological stress, distress or anxiety, or produce humiliation or cause harm or other negative consequences

If YES:

- **Please detail any topics which have the potential for causing participants stress, distress, anxiety, humiliation or other negative emotions and explain how this will be managed.**
- **Please outline any previous training and experience you and/or your supervisor have in the field of your project and any other relevant trainings/ experience e.g. safeguarding which may be relevant.**

Studies that may lead to disclosures from the participant that raise ethical or moral dilemmas, involvement in illegal actions or risk of harm to themselves or others

Involvement of participants who could be considered vulnerable or could feel coerced or obliged to take part or disadvantaged by not taking part.

e.g. people who are unable to give informed consent or in a dependent position, people under 18 years of age, people with learning disabilities, over-researched groups or people in care facilities

IF YES

- **Please explain why you consider the participants to be vulnerable and why it is necessary to recruit this vulnerable group.**
- Please note that the University is unable to approve research involving the recruitment of adult participants that lack capacity to consent for themselves and this will instead require a Sponsorship application. If this is the case, please instead [follow the University sponsorship processes](#)
- University ethics committees are not recognised as Appropriate Bodies under the Mental Capacity Act, to give an opinion on studies involving people that lack capacity.
- **Please outline any previous training or experience you have working with the target group. If you are UG/PGT, please also outline the experience of your supervisor.**
- **Please include your safeguarding route and note any safeguarding training and/or experience your research team have undertaken.**

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Deception and/or participation without consent (including covert observation of people in non-public places). Please refer to the British Psychological Society Code of Ethics and Conduct (or similar guidelines) for further information. This includes collecting data from social media posts without consent)

- **IF YES - Please justify why it is necessary to deceive participants and/or involve participants without first receiving consent.**

Potential to identify research participants in publications or outputs.

This does not include taking email details for participant prize draws or identifying participants from signed consent forms or holding identity encryption spreadsheets that are stored securely separate from the research data.

- **IF YES - ☒ I can confirm this will be clearly explained to participants within the Participant Information Sheet and a media release form will be provided if relevant.**

Research exploring or involving illegal activities, requiring access to or handling of materials related to illegal activities and/or could lead to the disclosure of information that could facilitate illegal activities.

- **IF YES - Please describe the type of disclosure that may be made, and include your safeguarding route and note any safeguarding training and/or experience your research team have undertaken.**

The collection of personal, special categories of personal data*

*identifiers relating to racial, or ethnic origin, political opinions, trade union membership, religious or philosophical beliefs, genetics data, biometrics data, health, data concerning sex life or sexual orientation.

- **IF YES - Please explain why the collection of any special categories of personal data is necessary for your project and why the project aims cannot be achieved without collection of this data.**
- A Data Protection Impact Assessment may also be required, so please contact a [Data Protection Officer](#) for advice

Any other ethical issues that you think are relevant to your project and not covered elsewhere, including potential conflicts of interest.

If YES to any of the above questions:

Based upon your answers to the above questions your application may be considered HIGH risk.

If, however you wish to make a case that your application should be considered as LOW risk please enter the reasons here. Researchers should note that SREOs or F-RECs may decide NOT to agree with the case that you have made.

The rest of the application form contains the same questions regardless of whether it is a low or high-risk application.