

Ethical scrutiny procedures

Procedures for the ethical scrutiny of empirical work within the University of Wolverhampton.

Introduction

The principle of open ethical consideration and scrutiny of research at the University of Wolverhampton has at its heart an active engagement and thereby understanding of the ethical issues and values of that research by both researchers and the supervisors of other's research. This engagement with the ethical debate surrounding research is essential due to the changing environment in which research is undertaken. Examples of such change as the impact of new technologies and the Internet and the development of more international working all present a changing landscape of ethical issues. For this reason the following policy is approved.

1. The ethical scrutiny of empirical work is the responsibility of the host School of which the staff and students are members. All ethical scrutiny will take place at that local level with reporting on an annual basis to the University Ethics Committee whose function is to review performance and develop and modify policy.
2. All research, including undergraduate research projects, is required to have undergone ethical scrutiny by all parties involved and where necessary passed for scrutiny to the appropriate Ethics Committee for approval. Please note this will now apply to any work that collects primary data from or about human participants and so may include some kinds of in-module research.
3. It is required that the research is in full compliance with the law including Health and Safety, IT and data policies and legislation.
4. All research carried out with human participants is done so with informed consent.
5. In collaborative work, all parties must be involved in the process of ethical consideration and all research must be approved by the ethical structures of each organisation. In addition, when dealing with projects requiring NHS ethical scrutiny through the LRECs, the project must have received prior ethical scrutiny at School level before being passed to the LREC.
6. No data should be collected before adequate ethical consideration and approval has been given from an appropriate authority.
7. In international research the ethical values and standards pertaining to the UK shall prevail.
8. The process of ethical filtering and scrutiny that will take place in the University will follow the procedures laid out in Annexe A.
9. Where research work is carried out within Research Institutes it is the responsibility of the researcher, in conjunction with the Director of the Research Institutes, to make sure that appropriate ethical scrutiny of all

projects has taken place and that the School Ethics Committees have been informed of this.

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