

ETHICAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION POLICY

1. The University of Greenwich's [Strategy to 2030](#) and [Research and Knowledge Exchange Sub-Strategy](#) set the goal of being the best modern university in the UK for research and knowledge exchange by 2030. Our approach incorporates our values of being inclusive, collaborative and impactful and embraces three key principles outlined in the Strategy to 2030:
 - Creating opportunities for individuals and society. Our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion is intrinsic to our approach.
 - Building partnerships. As an outward-facing university, our collaborative partnerships are central to our approach and the delivery of our objectives.
 - Delivering impact. A measure of our focus on local, national and international impact is our alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), responding to some of the world's biggest challenges by developing sustainable solutions.
2. A central commitment to sustainability runs through our approach to research and knowledge exchange. The University of Greenwich takes its place in society seriously and is justifiably proud of its sustainability reputation (see our [Sustainability Policy](#) and [Sustainability Strategic Action Plan](#)). It promotes a healthy and supportive environment for students and staff and expects that its collaborators demonstrate similar aspirations.
3. The University's [Long Term Investment Policy](#) aims to ensure an ethical approach to all investments made by the University, by limiting investment in areas that conflict with the University's core values, taking account of ethical, environmental, corporate governance and social issues.
4. Many of the academic staff based at the University of Greenwich engage in research and knowledge exchange ("research") activity. This document, in conjunction with a number of other policies and guidance (including but not limited to [research integrity](#), [ethical investment](#), [research ethics](#), [freedom of speech and academic freedom](#), and the professional rights and responsibilities of staff, including [intellectual property](#) considerations), defines the framework within which this research is conducted.

5. Whilst recognising the important principle of academic freedom, and noting that research and knowledge exchange usually requires collaboration with external partners (through funding, access to resources, conferences/workshops and other similar fora etc) there may be circumstances where it is inconsistent with the ethical stance of the University of Greenwich to engage in a collaboration with a particular partner, either in general, or for a specific activity, where that activity might be inconsistent with the aims and objectives of the University. For the avoidance of doubt, research collaborations covered by this policy include those where money is received by the University (e.g. research grants, contracts and monies received from third-party sources for research purposes) as well as those where there is no funding involved.
6. In considering whether to engage with a given collaborator and/or a specific activity, particular attention should be given to the likelihood of causing conflict (or its perception) with this University stance, tensioned against the independence of the researcher.
7. Where collaborations may conflict with the University's core values, they must be flagged with the Faculty contact at Greenwich Research and Innovation (GRI) and discussed with the relevant Pro Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean. Collaborations which may conflict with our core values include but are not limited to those which involve activities which:
 - Are potentially injurious to health;
 - Destabilise community cohesion;
 - Systematically harm the environment;
 - Threaten stability within the stakeholder group or wider;
 - Contribute to the violation of rules, regulation, laws, conventions, norms etc in respect of human rights, employment practices and conditions and the environment.
8. In circumstances where conflict may be evident, prior approval before engaging in such activity should be sought from the [University Research Ethics Board](#).
9. It is likely, indeed reasonable, to envisage a situation where it is possible to engage with a collaborator for one activity but not another; or to not engage

with a particular collaborator irrespective of the activity; or any activity irrespective of the collaborator.

10. In the case of funded projects, a risk assessment must be undertaken by GRI as part of its due diligence process.
11. This policy sets the minimum expectations on academic staff at the University of Greenwich but recognises that individuals may have a different set of personal or professional ethics which may be more restrictive than set out here.
12. An individual who may wish to raise concerns relating to research collaborations in general may do so directly with the GRI. This may be done in confidence and they are entitled to receive a response to their concerns. Individuals are protected under the University's [Public Interest Disclosure \(Whistleblowing\) Policy and Procedure](#).

Document Reference Number	NA
Title	Ethical Research Collaboration Policy
Owning Department	Greenwich Research and Innovation
Version	2.0
Approved Date	18 June 2025
Approving Body	University Research Ethics Board
Review Date	June 2026
Classification	Public

Version Control

Version	Last Modified	Last Modified By	Document Changes
2.0	June 2025	University Secretary	General updates to reflect changes to strategies, organisational structures etc