

University Research Ethics Board

1. Constitution

- 1.1 The [Academic Council](#) has established a committee known as the University Research Ethics Board (UREB) which reports to the Academic Council. It has sub-committees in each Faculty known as Faculty Research Ethics Committees (FREC).

2. Scope

- 2.1 To approve and implement University regulations, policies and procedures relating to research ethics in accordance with the highest possible standards of integrity and practice. The regulations, policies and procedures are designed to protect the interests of participants, staff and students in research and also any non human sentient creatures. They apply to all staff and students undertaking research.
- 2.2 To grant ethical approval for research projects following review of the projects and their relevant risks.

3. Membership

- 3.1 The membership shall be as follows:
- A member of academic staff appointed by the Vice-Chancellor to act as Chair;
 - Two or more members of academic staff appointed annually by the Pro Vice-Chancellor of each Faculty;
 - Up to two members external to the University with expertise in relevant areas, appointed by the Vice-Chancellor;
 - The University Secretary (*Vice-chair*).
- 3.2 The Chair and the External Members of the Board shall normally be appointed to the Board for a term of three years and are eligible for re-appointment.
- 3.3 Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellors may nominate more than two staff from their Faculty to serve as members (e.g. to act as alternates or to sign applications), provided that no more than two members from a Faculty shall attend any meeting.

4. Attendance at meetings

- 4.1 At the discretion of the Chair, other staff who are not members of the Board may be invited to attend on an ad hoc basis for specific items where their attendance can inform and support the Board.

5. Delegated Authority

The Board is authorised by the Academic Council to approve:

- 5.1 Research Ethics regulations, policies and procedures including the University's [Research Ethics Policy](#) and the [Ethical Research Collaboration Policy](#). The Board shall consult with the Research and Knowledge Exchange Board prior to approving any changes to regulations and policies;
- 5.3 Research proposals for experiments, investigations and procedures in accordance with the Research Ethics Policy, having considered relevant risks and the interests of potential research participants, staff and students and also any non human sentient creatures;
- 5.4 Decisions of a FREC or overturn/change a decision of a FREC when UREB decides to review a decision made by a Faculty Research Ethics Committee under delegated authority. It may do this where it considers that this is necessary to ensure compliance with the University's Research Ethics governance. UREB's decision to uphold or alter the decision of the FREC will be final.

6. Other Duties

The other duties of the Board shall be to:

- 6.1 Monitor and regularly review the Research Ethics Policy and the Ethical Research Collaboration Policy and associated guidance and procedures. The Board shall report to the Academic Council on any changes to the policies approved by the Committee;
- 6.2 Monitor the operation and decisions of the FRECs and consider any proposals referred from the FRECs. Make recommendations to the Academic Council in respect of the terms of reference and membership of FRECs;
- 6.3 Keep under review the University's arrangements for the delivery of training on research ethics, liaising with Greenwich Research and Innovation;
- 6.4 Consider the outcomes of any required external ethical approvals and any impact they may have on the decisions of the committee;
- 6.5 Have particular regard to the importance of freedom of speech and academic freedom in the Board's business, in accordance with the commitments in the University's [Freedom of Speech Code of Practice](#). For example, by ensuring that ethical review and requirements are focused on ethical issues and do not impose requirements related to the quality of the proposed research or reputational concerns, and that the ethical review process is transparent; and
- 6.6 Ensure active consideration of equality, diversity, inclusion and sustainability in the conduct of the Board's business.

7. Standing Orders

- 7.1 The Board must adhere to the [Standing Orders for Academic and Executive Committees](#).

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