RESEARCH ETHICS SUB-COMMITTEE
Terms of Reference

Approved by the Research & Enterprise Committee 11 June 2026

Purpose

The University Research Ethics Sub-Committee (URESC) is responsible to the Research & Enterprise Committee for overseeing the development and implementation of the University's Policy and Procedures relating to Research Ethics.

Delegation of Authority

The Committee has **delegated authority** to:

1. Consider for approval research projects:
    a. Referred to it by a local research ethics co-ordinator;
    b. That involve substantial and / or complex ethical issues;
    c. Where the consent of an external body is required;
    d. Where it is a requirement for funding by an external body.

2. **Chair's action**: In exceptional circumstances, the Committee Chair shall have authority to act between meetings after consulting with the appropriate colleague/s and committee secretary. Details of any action taken will be reported to the Committee at the next meeting.

Each instance where delegated authority has been exercised shall be reported to the Research & Enterprise Committee at the following meeting.

Duties and responsibilities

1. Oversee and monitor the implementation of, and compliance with, the University's Policy and Procedures for Research Ethics.

2. Advise the Research & Enterprise Committee on the development of institutional policies and guidelines relating to ethical issues in research arising from teaching, research and other related institutional activities.

3. Monitor the external research ethics environment and ensure that the University responds to all external requirements.

4. Advise the Research & Enterprise Committee of the training and development needs of University Staff in relation to research ethics.

Reporting

The Committee produces a regular summary report for Research & Enterprise Committee at each of its meetings.

Review

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually by the Committee, and any proposed changes will be presented to Research & Enterprise Committee for approval. The Committee undertakes to regularly review the effectiveness of its operations.

Meeting frequency

The Committee shall normally meet 3 times during the academic year.

Membership

The Committee shall consist of up to 15 members.

Current constitution

A Director of Research & KE (Chair)	1	Nominated by Research & Enterprise Committee
School Research Ethics Co-ordinators	8	Nominated by the Dean of School
Co-opted members of staff	1	Nominated by Research & Enterprise Committee
External co-opted member	1	Nominated by Research & Enterprise Committee
Insurance & Risk Manager	1	Ex-officio
Representative of the Research and Knowledge Exchange Services	1	Nominated by Research & Enterprise Committee
PGR Student Representative	1	Nominated by the Students' Union
Nominee of Registrar & Secretary	1	

Total membership	15
Quorum	7

Regular attendees
Research Excellence Manager
Committee Secretary

Further information can be found in the **Standing Orders** for Academic Board and its committees.