

Leeds Beckett University Light Touch Ethics Approval

Any research where the lead-researcher is a member of LBU, must go through some form of LBU ethical scrutiny as per the Research Ethics Policy. In some cases, a light touch approval may be appropriate where the research project has already been through a robust external ethics approval process. LBU holds a list of external institutions/organisations that it has judged to have a sufficient research ethics procedure which meets its standards. This is to say that the process helps protect the welfare, dignity and rights of those involved in the research and is aligned with the LBU Research Ethics Principles as set out in the Research Ethics Policy.

External institutions/organisations approved for Light Touch Ethics		
No	Name	Last reviewed
1	NHS Research Ethics Committees https://www.hra.nhs.uk/about-us/committees-and-services/res-and-recs/	October 2025
2	His Majesties Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) National Research Committee (NRC) https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-prison-and-probation-service/about/research	October 2025
3	Ministry of Defence Research Ethics Committee (MODREC) https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/ministry-of-defence-research-ethics-committees	October 2025
4	All other UK Universities Research Ethics Committees	October 2025

Procedure for light touch ethical approval

To apply for light touch ethical review, the researcher must submit an application through Worktribe as usual. The first question on the 'scope' tab of the application asks if the project has been approved elsewhere. When clicking 'yes' the application will ask for details of the review and very limited further information to ensure proportionality. The application will be categorised as low ethical risk and should be sent to the School Research Ethics Coordinator for information and sign off. The SREC will not review the ethical substance of the application, to align with UKRI recommendations of a 'single review process' ([UKRI Ethics Review](#)), but will ensure all records are in order.

Addition to the 'light touch ethical approval list'

To add an institution/organisation to the LBU approved list for light touch ethical approval, a researcher should first consult their School Research Ethics Coordinator. Once they have support from the SREC, then the researcher should provide the following to the Chair of the University Research Ethics Sub-Committee (URESC):

- A copy of the institution/committee's research ethics procedures and application form, in order for it to be compared to Leeds Beckett Research Ethics Policy and Procedures to ensure alignment.
- Any additional information concerning the institution/committee, including but not limited to. the number of research ethics reviewers, website link, due diligence documentation if the institution/committee is overseas.

The Chair of URESC will review the information and confirm if the external institution/committee's ethical review procedure is deemed sufficiently robust. The Chair of URESC reserves the right to seek further guidance from the URESC committee if deemed appropriate.

If the institution/committee's procedures are not deemed sufficiently robust, and so they are not approved to be on the 'light touch ethical approval list' then a full research ethics review as set out in the Research Ethics Procedures will be required.

Oversight

The URESC will have responsibility for oversight of this list with the Chair of URESC and the Research Ethics and Integrity Manager being responsible for managing and administering the process.

Institutions/committees who are listed will be reviewed every 2 years in line with the standard cycle of review for the University's Research Ethics Procedures.

If there have been any major changes to an external institution/committee's ethical approval processes, then a full review as set out in this process will be required.