**Getting ethics approval and complying with what was approved**

All activities, involving human beings or animals, – undergraduate/postgraduate research, commercial, knowledge transfer, evaluation, audit and in some instances teaching and learning - need ethical consideration.

Applicants seeking ethics approval are responsible for ensuring that all activities fall within the principles set down in the University Academic Ethics Policy. You are also responsible forseeking University of Salford ethical approval, and any subsequent agency approval, prior to conducting research involving humans or animals. (Please note UoS approval must be gained before applying to other ethics approval agencies.)

It is contrary to University policy to undertake field work, experimentation or work with human participants or animals without having first obtained ethics approval. Where ethical approval has not been gained a number of consequences are likely to occur:

(1) Conducting research without proper ethical approval could be construed as research misconduct which could result in disciplinary action

(2) The University cannot protect you against any untoward consequences, financial or otherwise, that may or have occurred during your research.

(3) An aggrieved participant could seek legal redress and you would have a weaker defence if the research did not have ethical approval.

You should have read and familiarised yourself with the University and School’s ethics procedures (<https://www.salford.ac.uk/ethics>) and University requirements regarding data protection and data management (<https://www.salford.ac.uk/privacy>).

If you are unsure then your University of Salford supervisor or Ethics Panel Chair should be consulted for advice.

In the event of non-compliance with, or deviation from, the ethics protocol that has been approved for your research, a sanction could be applied. For staff members, this will be considered through the Policy and Procedure for Dealing with Allegations of Misconduct in Research (<https://www.salford.ac.uk/ethics/research-governance>), and may result in action under the [staff disciplinary procedure](https://www.salford.ac.uk/hr/workplace-conduct).

For students, this may involve the instigation of the [Academic Misconduct Procedure](https://www.salford.ac.uk/askus/academic-support/academic-misconduct), [Fitness to Practise Procedure](https://www.salford.ac.uk/askus/academic-support/fitness-to-practise) and/or [Student Disciplinary Procedure](https://www.salford.ac.uk/askus/academic-support/student-disciplinary-procedure). On taught awards, at a minimum any academic misconduct will result in a sanction of zero for the component of assessment in question, and can lead to much more serious sanctions including expulsion from the University. For students on post graduate research studies (e.g. PhD) any research or academic misconduct would most likely result in expulsion from the University.

For further information on the Policy and Procedure for Dealing with Allegations of Misconduct in Research please contact [research-misconduct@salford.ac.uk](mailto:research-misconduct@salford.ac.uk).