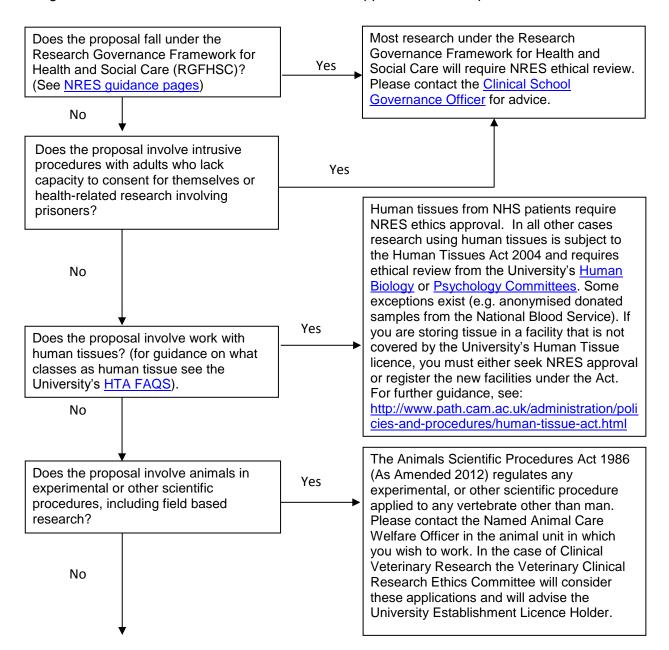
Guidelines: Seeking ethical review

Most research projects carried out at the University of Cambridge will involve no ethical issues, whereas some will raise significant ethical questions. All researchers should consider whether their research will raise ethical issues and in cases of doubt should, in the first instance, seek advice at a local level:

- Where the researcher is an undergraduate or postgraduate student: the project should be submitted to the student's supervisor or mentor for advice.
- Where the researcher is a University employee, or any other person conducting research on University premises: advice should be sought from the local ethics committee/contact or Head of the Department in which the research will be carried out.

In many cases advice and, where necessary, review will be able to be provided locally. Where this is not possible, local ethics committees/contacts or the Head of Department will be able to advise researchers on how to proceed. The following flowchart, however, provides guidelines on where to seek ethical review, to supplement local expertise.



Does the proposal involve human Appropriate review will be required. If this Yes biology, or experimental human is not possible at a local level, such psychology, that falls outside the proposals should be referred to the RGFHSC? Human Biology Research Ethics Committee or the Psychology Research Ethics Committee. Please see their No respective remits for further details. Does the proposal involve human participants, or personal data in any way? (This includes secondary data Such proposals will not normally require No e.g. existing survey data, interview ethical review. Advice should be sought in transcripts). Be aware that some cases of doubt. research involving personal data will come under the RGFHSC. Yes Is the proposal a research project Appropriate review will be required. involving the collection of new data from Proposals should be submitted in the first human participants? (e.g. interview, instance to the Principal Investigator's observation, original survey) Yes Departmental review procedure, where available, which may be able to provide appropriate review No If the proposal involves analysis of Expedited review (e.g. by Head of Department) will usually not be sufficient secondary data, ethical review may still be required. Examples of such cases for proposals which involve any of the include: criteria below. In all cases please check that NRES review is not required. vulnerable people (e.g. children, older Use of data which has not been people) anonymised (including any record "gate-keeper" communities (where showing date of birth) Use of anonymised data which authority is required to conduct the could be combined with other data. study – e.g. school, residential care, causing subjects to be identifiable Research of data whose outcome "dependent" subjects / people less has implications for an identifiable able to refuse consent (e.g. class of people e.g. researcher's students) genealogy of war criminals use of drugs, placebos, foods estimating genetic potential sensitive topics (e.g. sex, drugs, for disease in an identifiable abuse, sexuality) class of living people subjects involved in illegal acts potential to cause pain, discomfort, If the proposal involves NHS data (even stress, anxiety, or heighten risk of if anonymised) it may require NRES harm to subject review. heightened risk of uncovering traumatic memory during study Contact your Local or School Ethics financial inducements contact or committee for advice and, if audio and/or visual recording needed, appropriate review. The study of individuals without their prior **Humanities and Social Sciences** knowledge and consent Research Ethics Committee requires experiments or other data collection researchers in Departments which use involving deception their Committee to refer any project research that may expose participants reusing personal data directly to the to a risk of legal or disciplinary action. HSS REC. If Departmental procedure cannot provide an appropriate degree of review, proposals may be

submitted to the Human Biology REC, Psychology REC or the Humanities and Social Sciences

REC. Departments within the School of Technology may also approach the School of Technology

Ethics Committee for advice and review. See their respective terms of reference to determine which is most appropriate. If these Committees cannot provide appropriate review, they will refer your proposal to the University Research Ethics Committee.