

Research Ethics Policy

A quick guide

To promote a culture within the School whereby researchers conscientiously reflect on the ethical implications of their research.

To encourage researchers properly to consider such discipline-specific frameworks, statutory requirements and best practice guidelines as may be relevant to their research.

Policy

Researchers have responsibilities – to society, to funders, to their institution, and to those taking part in their research. For any research involving human participants, or data relating to identifiable human subjects, researchers are required to complete a research ethics review, and should begin by reading the LSE Research Ethics Policy. Key elements of the procedure are summarised below, and in the flowchart. The policy and further guidance can be found using the link at the bottom of the page. For any queries contact research.ethics@lse.ac.uk. Your own Department or Centre may have complementary policies and procedures for the support and oversight of research ethics reviews.



For help, guidance and further information see: lse.ac.uk/intranet/researchAndDevelopment/researchDivision/policyAndEthics/ethicsGuidanceAndForms.aspx

Informed Consent

For most research informed consent is an ethical requirement. Participants should be provided with appropriate information about the research, how data will be stored and used in the long-term, and how confidentiality, where promised, will be maintained (for guidance see data-archive.ac.uk/create-manage/consent-ethics/consent). Special consideration needs to be given to participants who may have a diminished capacity to give informed consent.

Legal and data protection requirements

Researchers must comply with any legal requirements – such as the UK Data Protection Act, the Mental Capacity Act, and, where appropriate (such as work involving vulnerable adults and children), Disclosure and Barring Service checks must be obtained.

Research requiring external ethics review

Duplication of ethics reviews will be avoided where possible, especially in regard to research that may fall under the rubric of other ethics review bodies (e.g. NHS Research Ethics Committees). In these cases researchers should send their completed ethics review Checklist to research.ethics@lse.ac.uk for reference and submit their research for ethics approval to the appropriate body. Once ethics approval has been granted a copy of the letter of approval and relevant documentation should be sent to research.ethics@lse.ac.uk. Notwithstanding the



principle of avoiding duplication, if deemed appropriate the School will consider the ethical implications of the research in its own right (regardless of whether approval has already been granted externally).

For research conducted outside the UK: The ethical standards that the School expects for UK research apply equally to work undertaken outside the UK. In addition, researchers must establish whether any local ethical review is required by the host country, and if not, how the principles of the Research Ethics Policy can be followed in developing and undertaking the research. Researchers should also check whether any risk assessment is required for the location in question.

Training

All students and staff undertaking research are required in the course of their studies or career to have undertaken appropriate training or to have had significant relevant experience before embarking on an evaluation of the ethical implications of their research.

The Research Ethics Policy should be formally incorporated into any undergraduate/postgraduate training programme and documentation offered at departmental level. All degree programmes (undergraduate, Master's and research degrees) must incorporate at least one lecture, seminar or support session that covers research ethics. All students undertaking research for a dissertation or thesis should have access through their supervisor to appropriate advice and support in relation to research ethics. For further information on training please contact **research.ethics@lse.ac.uk**

Procedure

A flowchart of the LSE research ethics review process is provided on the next page. Researchers should, however, first read the LSE Research Ethics Policy¹.

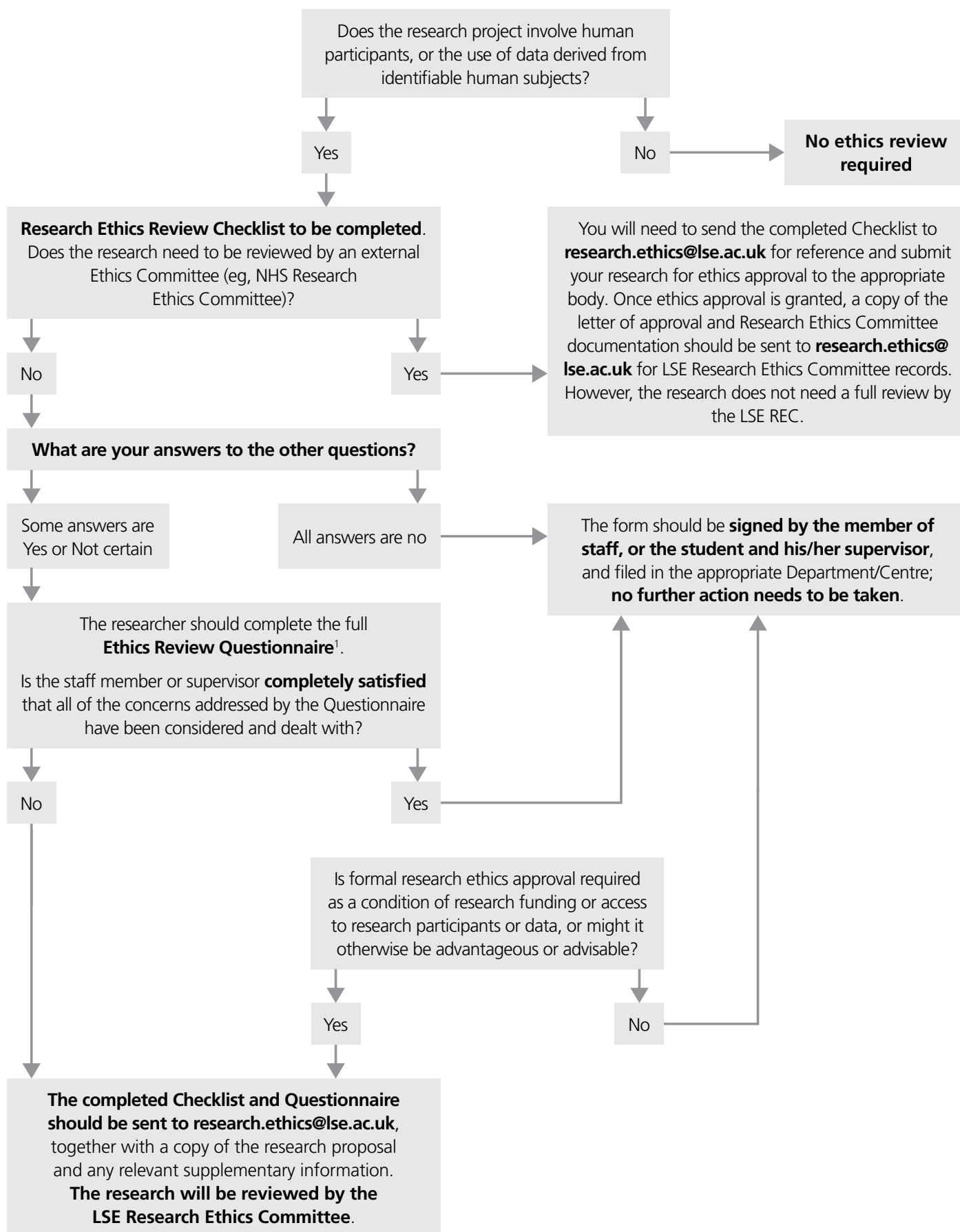
Contact

For further information please contact:
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¹Available at **lse.ac.uk/intranet/researchAndDevelopment/researchDivision/policyAndEthics/ethicsGuidanceAndForms.aspx**

Flowchart of the LSE research ethics review process



¹ **Note:** some Departments may use alternative internal documentation or procedures for the facilitation of self-certified research ethics reviews, but if Research Ethics Committee approval is sought or required, a completed Ethics Review Questionnaire will be necessary