Research with human participants in England – procedure for Undergraduate and Masters students (Postgraduate research students must refer to the guidance issued by the Doctoral School).

With regards to England, this updates parts of the '*Anglia Ruskin University's Covid-19 Position Statement regarding face-to-face research'* (6 October 2020), available at www.anglia.ac.uk/researchethics

This document has been produced in response to National Lockdown in England and the new, more transmissible, variants of Covid-19 that have been recently discovered.

You must stop all face-to-face research immediately until you have received approval to proceed from the relevant Faculty Research Ethics Panel (FREP), unless doing so could create any potential health or safety issues for participants. If this is the case, please discuss it with your FREP Chair as a matter of urgency.

All applications involving face-to-face research must now be directed towards FREP, even if a School Research Ethics Panel (SREP) gave the original approval.

Students based in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland must adhere to their own governments' regulations below:

https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/

https://gov.wales/coronavirus

https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-Covid-19

Students based overseas must adhere to their own governments' regulations.

If your research is externally funded and this guidance impacts on it, please speak to Carole Randall, Head Post Award and Commercialisation, RIDO, in the first instance at carole.randall@aru.ac.uk

Arrangements for Covid-19

Students should not return to campus unless absolutely necessary.
If you will be returning to campus, it is essential that you adhere to ARU's requirements regarding this:
https://aru.ac.uk/coronavirus/covid-secure-campuses

Research carried out remotely

1. In general, all face-to-face research with human participants must be immediately suspended or switched to being carried out remotely. Please discuss this with your supervisor and then confirm as a matter of urgency which course of action you are taking with the Faculty Research Ethics Panel (FREP) or School Research Ethics Panel (SREP) which originally approved your research.

2. For the avoidance of doubt, this also refers to face-to-face research taking place on university campuses or in your workplace.

3. If you will now be carrying your research out remotely, please ensure that your participant information sheets, consent forms and any other participant documentation are adapted accordingly and a copy sent to the FREP/SREP (for information only, you do not need to wait for approval from them).

4. If you already obtained consent for participants, you need to consider whether you need to obtain further consent from them now you have switched to carrying out the research remotely. If you will be doing anything additional (e.g. recording the interviews), it is essential that you obtain further consent. You will need FREP/SREP approval for this.

   Please also refer to the *'Ethical issues to consider when carrying out research with participants remotely'* document, available at: www.anglia.ac.uk/researchethics

Face-to-face research

1. Should you feel it is critical to complete your research with participants face-to-face, please discuss this with your supervisor in the first instance. If your supervisor is in agreement with this approach, you must obtain approval from the relevant FREP to do this. Please note that, even if your ethics approval was originally obtained from one of the SREPs, you must still obtain approval from the relevant FREP. Contact details can be found at: https://web.anglia.ac.uk/anet/rido/ethics/about/frep.phtml

2. You must stop the research immediately until you have received FREP approval, unless doing so could create any potential health or safety issues for participants. If this is the case, please discuss this with your FREP Chair as a matter of urgency. As is the usual procedure, your submission must be submitted to the ethics panel via your supervisor.

3. You will need to clarify to the FREP why it is critical that the research should continue and demonstrate how you will minimise the risk of exposure to Covid-19 for participants. You must take the following steps:
   - send the FREP your updated Risk Assessment and confirmation that all other health and safety measures are in place.
   - provide information about whether potential participants could be in any clinically vulnerably or extremely clinical vulnerable groups and, if so, ensure that you have stated in your participant documentation that people in these 'shielded' categories are strongly advised not to take part (you must also make this clear verbally to potential participants).
   - provide the FREP with the text for the Participant Information Sheet in Appendix 1 of this document, which you will need to adapt for your own research. For current participants who have already consented, it may make more sense to provide this as a stand-alone document. If so, please make it clear to the FREP that you will be doing this.

4. Should your research be approved to continue, please ensure that you adhere to the contact tracing requirements and Risk Assessment procedures for participants in Appendix 1.

5. As confirmed by our Secretary and Clerk's Office, any participants who are not willing to provide their details for contact tracing (there is a standard consent form for this) cannot be included in the research. If you are carrying out research in another organisation you need to adhere to any contact tracing processes they have in place, as well as ARU's. Please clarify this requirement in the initial documentation supplied to potential participants, in order that they can make an informed decision.

Contact details for queries

- contact tracing process - dpo@aru.ac.uk
- health and safety and Risk Assessment - safety@aru.ac.uk
- research ethics process – research.ethics@aru.ac.uk

Dr Michael Millan, Director of RIDO

Julie Scott, Research Ethics and Integrity Manager, RIDO

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