

## Ethical Review Assessment

Research in the social and physical sciences often involves investigating the actions of individuals and their interactions with others and their environment under varying conditions. This may include use of techniques such as interviewing, participant observation or physiological testing. It is important to remember that it would be impossible for you to conduct your research, and in the process improve your own knowledge and expertise and further your own career without the willing involvement of your research participants. Therefore one of your primary concerns should be to consider and to protect their welfare whilst they are taking part in your study. In order to assess the risks that they will be exposed to whilst taking part in your research we ask you to complete the questionnaire below.

Answering 'yes' to any of the questions in section one or 'no' to those in section two confirms that your research carries 'high risks' for either your research participants or you as the researcher and, as such, would benefit from detailed ethical review. Either the QMREC or NRES, the ethical review body for research that involves NHS sites or personnel, would normally carry out this review. Information about how to apply for review by these bodies can be found on the Departmental and Queen Mary Research ethics pages at:

<http://www.geog.qmul.ac.uk/ethics/> or <http://www.qmul.ac.uk/research/ethics/>

If it does prove that your research will require this level of review please contact your Departmental Ethics advisor to discuss your application at your earliest convenience.

In order to assess the risks of your research accurately it is particularly important that you answer the following questions honestly. **This form will provide a documentary record of your assessment of the risks involved in your research. It is therefore imperative that you answer these questions honestly. If you do not you may invalidate the insurance that indemnifies research conducted by members of QMUL leaving you open to legal liabilities.**

You are also reminded that if the nature of your research changes during the term of its commission such that new risks do emerge it is your obligation to revisit the ethical review procedure on this site and to resubmit new forms where appropriate. To fail to do so may, again, void your right to liability insurance offered by QMUL.

You are reminded that also have a legal and moral obligation to provide your participants with appropriate information about your study and their rights within it. You must also obtain their written and informed consent to participate. In order to protect their and your interests you must also sign the statement at the bottom of this Ethical Review Assessment that confirms that you, as the researcher has already, or will before commencing the research, provide the participants with an appropriate letter of invitation, information sheet and consent forms. Copies of these must be kept in your files and be available for inspection at any time. Further information on all these matters can be accessed at <http://www.geog.qmul.ac.uk/ethics/>

## **Section 1: Assessment of Risks and Ethical Implications of the Research**

Please circle the appropriate answers

**1) Will your research involve subjecting the participants to higher risks than they would experience in everyday life (such as higher levels of psychological stress, anxiety, humiliation or pain)?**

No

Yes

**2) Will your research involve the use of tissue or blood samples (does not include cell lines)?**

No

Yes

**3) Are you offering any monetary or other incentives to the participants to take part in your study beyond the reimbursement of the costs of their participation (e.g reimbursement of travel expenses, lost wages etc.)?**

No

Yes

**4) Are you intending to intentionally deceive or withhold information from the participants?**

No

Yes

**5) Are any of the participants in your study under 16 years of age?**

No

Yes

**6) Is your study designed to include participants who have an impairment that will limit their understanding or communication?**

No

Yes

**7) Are you in a position of authority or influence over any of your participants?**

No

Yes

**8) Are any of your research participants from vulnerable groups (including mental patients, the cognitively impaired, prisoners, children under 16 years of age, or individuals with terminal disease)?**

No

Yes

**9) Is it possible that any participant in your study might have cause to initiate legal action against the College as a result of taking part in this research?**

No

Yes

## **Section 2: Providing Information and Securing Informed Consents**

**10) Will your research participants be fully briefed about the aims of your study and given the opportunity to ask questions both before and after their participation?**

No

Yes

**11) Will all research participants give explicit consent to participate in the study?**

No

Yes

**12) Will you give all your research participants your name and contact details for the department where you are working?**

No

Yes

**13) Will data (including interview material) collected during this study either be stored in an anonymous/anonymised form, OR, if identifying, be used in publication only with the written consent of the research participant?**

No

Yes

**14) Will your research participants be informed that they can withdraw from the study at any time without penalty?**

No

Yes

**Name:**

**Signature:**

**Date:**