

Name of Sub-Board: Queen Mary Research Ethics Committee (QM REC)

Established by / reports to

The Research Ethics Committee was established by Senate. It is a sub-board of, and reports to, the Senate Research and Innovation Board.

Main remit

To provide a forum for the independent review of research ethics involving human participants and/or their data.

To ensure that research involving human participants (including their data) undertaken by staff and students at the University is conducted in an ethically sound manner and in accordance with the relevant policies and procedures. To provide assurance of this to Senate via the Senate Research and Innovation Board.

Key responsibilities

1. To develop new and amended regulations, policies and procedures linked to research ethics, with reference to the Senate Research and Innovation Board and Senate where appropriate.
2. To consider changes to such regulations, policies and procedures and recommend them to the Senate Research and Innovation Board.
3. To direct Faculties and Schools in the implementation of policies and regulations and to monitor the implementation of, and compliance with, such policies and procedures across the University.
4. To ensure appropriate provision of training in the ethics of research is available to staff and students.

5. To advise on training provisions for those undertaking research involving human participants and/or personal data.
6. To establish Research Ethics Review Panels (including delegation of powers of approval) and appoint members to these panels.
7. To monitor the work of the Research Ethics Review Panels and consider the outcomes of ethical approvals granted for low and moderate risk research ethics applications.
8. To consider, and if appropriate, approve, research ethics applications that meet the criteria for being high risk, and those that are complex and/or referred to it by the Research Ethics Review Panels.
9. To maintain oversight of relevant external developments related to research ethics and to consider their impact on the policies, procedures and practices of the University.
10. To provide a pool of expertise that can be used, if appropriate, to contribute to the consideration and/or investigation of allegations of research misconduct.
11. To have oversight of the operation and effectiveness of the devolved School Research Ethics Committees.

Membership

Membership of the Board will comprise of the following:

- Independent External Member (appointed as Chair)
- Academic member of staff (appointed as Deputy-Chair)
- Director of Research and Innovation (or their designated nominee)
- 12 academic members of staff, normally consisting of the Panel Chairs and Deputies for the six panels of the committee, with the option to deputise a Panel member.
- PS Staff member
- PhD student from existing Panel membership with option to Deputise

Quorum: Seven members.

Secretariat: Research Ethics Facilitators.