The following flowchart *(adapted from the [research ethics guided flowchart of the University of Cambridge](#))* serves as a self-help checklist for researchers, helping researchers in ICE assess the risk level of their projects with guidelines provided on where to seek ethical review in the first instance. Researchers will need to answer the same questions online at the beginning of the Research Ethics Approval Form (the request form).

Does the proposal fall under the [Research Governance Framework for Health and Social Care (RGFHSC)](#)?	**Yes** → Most research under the Research Governance Framework for Health and Social Care will require National Research Ethics Service (NRES) ethical review. Please submit your Research Ethics Request Form to ICE Research Ethics Committee (REC) for initial advice. You may also need to contact the [Clinical School Governance Team](#) for further advice by completing the [Health Research Authority (HRA) Research Toolkit](#).

No ↓

Does the proposal involve intrusive procedures with adults who lack capacity to consent for themselves or health-related research involving prisoners? — **Yes** →

No ↓

Does the proposal involve work with human tissues? For guidance on what classes as human tissue see the University's [HTA FAQS](#). — **Yes** →

Human tissues from NHS patients require NRES ethics approval. In all other cases research using human tissues is subject to the Human Tissues Act 2004. Some exceptions exist (e.g. anonymised donated samples from the National Blood Service). If you are storing tissue in a facility that is not covered by the University's Human Tissue licence, you must either seek NRES approval or register the new facilities under the Act.
For further guidance, see:
http://www.safety.admin.cam.ac.uk/subjects/biologicals/human-tissue-act
Please submit your research ethics request form to ICE Research Ethics Committee (REC) for initial advice.

No ↓

Does the proposal involve animals in experimental or other scientific procedures, including field-based research? — **Yes** →

The Animals Scientific Procedures Act 1986 (As Amended 2012) regulates any experimental, or other scientific procedure applied to any vertebrate other than man.
You may contact the Named Animal Care Welfare Officer in the animal unit in which you wish to work.
In the case of Clinical Veterinary Research, the Veterinary Clinical Research Ethics Committee of the University of Cambridge will consider these applications and will advise the University Establishment Licence Holder.
Please submit your research ethics request form to ICE Research Ethics Committee (REC) for initial advice.

No ↓

| Does the proposal involve human biology, or experimental human psychology, that falls outside the RGFHSC? | →Yes→ | Please submit your research ethics request form to ICE Research Ethics Committee (REC). |

No ↓

| Does the proposal involve human participants, or personal data in any way? This includes secondary data e.g. existing survey data, interview transcripts. *(Be aware that some research involving personal data will come under the RGFHSC. Please check NRES guidance pages)* | →No→ | Your project is probably at low risk. for confirmation or advice, please submit your research ethics request form to ICE Research Ethics Committee (REC) |

Yes ↓

| Is the proposal a research project involving the collection of new/ primary data from human participants? (e.g. interview, observation, original survey) | →Yes→ | Does the proposal involve safeguarding issues? For example: |

No ↓

Does the proposal involve analysis of secondary data which are not fully anonymous and can be identifiable/ traced back by researchers? For example:

- Use of data which has not been anonymised (including any record showing date of birth)
- Use of anonymised data which could be combined with other data (e.g. tracking of an identifiable location or behaviour), causing subjects to be identifiable
- Research of data whose outcome has implications for an identifiable class of people e.g.
  - o genealogy of war criminals
  - o estimating genetic potential for disease in an identifiable class of living people

→Yes→

Does the proposal involve safeguarding issues? For example:

1. Participants at risk
   - Vulnerable people (e.g. children, older people)
   - "Dependent" subjects / people less able to refuse consent (e.g. researcher's students)
   - Adult refugees
   - Adult prisoners
   - Subjects involved in illegal acts
   - "Gate-keeper" communities (where authority is required to conduct the study – e.g. school, residential care, prison)
   - Study of individuals without their prior knowledge and consent

2. Data collection methods
   - Scans (e.g. MRI), recordings (audio or visual), or other non-invasive tests (e.g. physiological assessment, pain induction including traumatic memory)
   - Potential to cause pain, discomfort, harm to subject
   - Deception of subject
   - May expose subject to a risk of legal or disciplinary action
   - Financial inducements
   - Use of drugs, placebos, foods
   - Sensitive topics (e.g. sex, drugs, abuse, sexuality)

No ↓

| Your project is probably at low risk. For confirmation or advice, please submit your research ethics request form to ICE Research Ethics Committee (REC). |

| Have you checked if the research ethics guidance from professional associations, research councils and other organisations external to the University can give you advice? See External Guidelines and Resources. | ←Y / N← |

Yes/ No ↓

| Please submit your research ethics request form to ICE Research Ethics Committee (REC). |