

Hello, everybody. My name's [Khatidja Chantler](#) and I'm Professor of Gender, Equalities and Communities and I'm based in [the School of Nursing](#). I'm also [Faculty Head of Ethics](#). So, I want to talk to you a little bit about the importance of ethics just very briefly, as well as an introduction to how to apply for your ethical approval when you come to that stage of your research studies. But before I say anything else of course, I want to say and join with others to welcome you here to [Manchester Metropolitan University](#) and I hope that you're going to have a very successful and productive research experience whilst you're studying with us. Next, I want to share a PowerPoint presentation with you so that you have information to hand. The PowerPoint is actually much longer than I'll have time to discuss with you but, it will be there for reference for you so that you can consult with it in the future.

Okay, so now we move over to the slides. Thanks. This presentation, as I said, is much longer than I'm going to have time to discuss today. But it really just outlines some key points about why ethics is important in research. So, what is ethics first of all?

It involves the application of moral rules, and professional codes of conduct in every stage of your research. So that's in the collection, the analysis, the reporting and hopefully the publication of research data and to the treatment of your research study participants, whether those are human participants, or animal participants. And ethical principles are important in your study and if you just stop and think about, what would you need to be sure of in order to consent to take part in a research study?

Well, I think you would agree that you'd want the research study to be honest, to be reporting its findings with integrity, to be open, to ensure that intellectual properties are credited in the right places and that when you publish your results, it actually relates to the findings. That they are an honest account of what you find.

Respect is very important for your colleagues, for your participants, whether those are animal or human. A sense of social responsibility is equally important. So, why are you doing this research? What's it going to say in relation to marginalised groups or, you know, how is it going to represent people? We often talk about this in terms of the ethics of representation. Confidentiality is key. If you were participating in a study, you would want

to be reassured that your data, your information, is being treated securely and that when results are published, you're not identifiable from those. If you happen to be involving animals in your study, then animal welfare is absolutely paramount. For most people, they will be involving human participants and so how you treat others should be underpinned by all these values and principles that I've just discussed.

Ethical scrutiny is important because it protects participants and their rights. It also protects you as the researcher and protects the University from reputational risk. Many people consider ethical scrutiny to be a bit of a bureaucratic process, but I think it's really important that you engage with the principles that I outlined in the previous stage to bring ethics to life in your research study.

At Manchester Met, ethical applications are reviewed through [Ethos](#), and [Ethos](#) is an online system for applicants and reviewers and everyone undertaking research in the university has to obtain ethical approval, whether you're a postdoctoral student, or whether you're a professor. There's only one instance really, or very few instances where ethical approval isn't required. That is when you're doing desk-based research where all the research is, for example, a systematic literature review. All your documentation, as well as the review, can be completed in the same place and [here is a link](#). I'm not going to open the link, but you can open that for yourself when you're ready to prepare your documentation.

Before we go on a little bit to talk about what would be required in your ethical review, it's important that you know who the people to contact are for various things. So, I've already told you that I'm Faculty Head of Ethics, we have a very able Deputy Head of Ethics, [Gill Yeowell](#) and the [Faculty ethics team](#) comprises of [Chris Wills](#), [Joe Hesketh](#), and [Monwara](#). But if you want to email them, [use the generic address](#) please. And importantly also, the central Research Ethics and Governance Managers, [Rachel Heron](#) is our Faculty contact and [Ramona Statache](#) centrally as well. If you have an ethical query, your supervisor should be able to help you. But if not, then your first other port of call should be your department ethics leads and this slide provides you with information about who your ethics leads are in your department and then if your query is something that they need to consult with me, they will contact me.

So, for [Ethos](#), as I was saying to you, unless you're undertaking entirely desk-based research, you will need to apply for ethical approval through [Ethos](#) and it has to be signed off by your supervisor and when they sign this off, it means that they agree to everything that's written in your [Ethos form](#). So, please do make sure that you've given them enough opportunity to review your application. There are certain applications which are considered to be high risk, and these require additional scrutiny. So, for example, if your research involves work with certain central organisations, for example the NHS, the police, the prison service, the Ministry of Defence. In this case, the supervisor must contact the central Research and Ethics Governance Manager. If your research includes anything to do with terrorism, then it doesn't mean to say that that research can't go ahead but you will need approval from the Prevent team. If your research involves deception, I think the first thing you need to ask yourself is, is deception really, really necessary to conduct my research? And if it is, then again that will require additional scrutiny. And also many research studies involve risks to the participants or to the researcher. This doesn't mean that the research can't happen. It just means that you need to be honest about what those risks are and how you're going to mitigate against them.

So, here are some key resources for you about [ethics](#), information about templates, about how to construct your participant information sheet, your consent sheet and so on, as well as [general guidance](#). So those are all the key resources.

I think when you're thinking about your [Ethos applications](#) you need to start thinking like a reviewer and although this is in relation to [Ethos](#), once you come to writing your results up, your supervisor will probably say, do you think like an examiner? So, it's about that thinking not just from your position. So, four key things. The first thing is, does your protocol fully describe the proposed project? I.e., do we have the methods, the research tools, whether those are questionnaires or interviews or your recruitment adverts, are those all in place? The reviewer will be thinking, have I got sufficient information to replicate this study? If the answer is no, it means that you need to go back and provide more detail about particular aspects of your study. Secondly, it's really important that you abide by all the relevant legal and professional obligations. Largely, this means being aware of [data protection legislation](#),

the [human tissue act](#) and your professional codes of conduct. On [the Ethos forms](#) there are places where sometimes people are tempted to say no to certain questions because they think that will mean they'll get through the form quicker. But reviewers are likely to pick this up and come back to you and then you will have to provide the relevant information anyway.

Importantly, your application should demonstrate that you understand your duties and responsibilities. So, this links back to what I was saying in the first couple of slides about how you treat people, their right to informed consent. So, have you provided them with enough information about the study for them to make an informed decision about whether they want to participate or not? How are you going to treat their data? That's also important, all these things need to be in your Ethos application and the question to ask yourself is that, would I want to be a participant on this research study? And lastly, your research study should attempt to avoid harm, and this is harm to people, property, the environment, or to the University. It's not that you can't do studies for example, that are based on sensitive topics. It's just that you need to have a distress policy, for example, if your interviews or questionnaires are likely to bring up painful memories or something like that. So, that's really important, you should discuss these with your supervisor about how to mitigate against that.

So, as I was saying earlier, your supervisor must contact the Research Ethics Manager centrally if your project involves dealing with the NHS or prisons or Ministry of Defence, the use of any tissue or parts of animals or humans and social care delivery organisations. If in doubt, contact them is the answer. So, to end with, we're just going to end with this slide to [Ethos](#). It's an online system and I hope that you will enjoy filling in the [Ethos documentation](#) as I'm sure it will help you to think more about your study, the ethical dilemmas inherent with it and how to manage those. So, here's to happy and successful Ethos applications.

Okay, thank you. Goodbye.