**BSMS Risk Rating Filter Checklist**

**The following questions appear in the online ethical review application system in Sussex Direct for applying for ethics review to the BSMS Research Governance and Ethics Committee (RGEC), or BSMS School Research Ethics Officer (SREO). The questions form an in-built risk assessment checklist designed to identify Undergraduate and Postgraduate Taught student projects which are judged to pose minimal risks and are eligible for review by the** **School Research Ethics Officer.**

**In completing the Checklist, student applicants are asked to reflect on the common types of ethical issues that can increase risk levels in research. Students should work through the questions and discuss any areas that they are unsure of with their Supervisor, prior to completing the online ethics application form in Sussex Direct.**

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|  | **BSMS Ethical Review Checklist** |  |
| **Q1** | Does the research involve potentially vulnerable people or groups in a dependent or unequal relationship? E.g., young people under 18, people with conditions associated with social stigma including mental health concerns, people in social care settings)? | Yes/No |
| **Q2** | Does the research involve individuals or groups where permission of a gatekeeper is required for initial or continued access to participants? E.g., non-NHS support groups and organisations supporting public health based in the community, traditional communities (at home and overseas), school pupils, or Medical Students? | Yes/No |
| **Q3** | Does the research involve discussion of sensitive topics or collection of sensitive data about participants? E.g., health status, sexual activity, drug use, ethnicity, political behavior, potentially illegal activities. Or those where researchers may have a duty to report (such as safeguarding concerns; possible fraud; terrorism; money laundering)? | Yes/No |
| **Q4** | Could the research involve more than minimal psychological stress, anxiety, or humiliation for the participant? Might the study cause harm or negative consequences beyond the risks encountered in everyday life? | Yes/No |
| **Q5** | Will the study involve invasive procedures or psychological interventions outside of standard practice? | Yes/No |
| **Q6** | Will the research involve deception? And/or will participants be required to take part in the study without their consent or knowledge at the time (e.g., covert observation of people in non-public places)? | Yes/No |
| **Q7** | Does the research involve collecting/storing personal or sensitive participant data which cannot be anonymised? | Yes/No |
| **Q8** | Will the research involve access to records of personal or confidential information, including genetic, biometric, or other biological information, concerning identifiable individuals? For example, collection of an inner-cheek swab for detection of the APOE-e4 genetic risk variant for Alzheimer’s Disease. | Yes/No |
| **Q9** | Does the research involve the processing of data beyond that for which informed consent has been given? Will access to non-anonymised personal data previously taken for another purpose be utilised? | Yes/No |
| **Q10** | Will data be gathered through social media channels or online groups/websites without the explicit informed consent of each individual? | Yes/No |
| **Q11** | Will the research involve blood/saliva/tissue samples, MRI imaging, or other methods which involve physical risk to the participant and/or careful screening or specialist skills of the researchers in order to maintain safety? | Yes/No |
| **Q12** | Is there a possibility that research activity might uncover unexpected and possibly clinically relevant findings? E.g., MRI scanning projects, projects involving taking blood samples, or cheek swabs, that may or may not have ethical consequences. | Yes/No |
| **Q13** | Will your study involve staff or students of the Universities of Brighton or Sussex travelling to any country with a current Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) warning against travel? Will any fieldwork associated with the project be undertaken outside the UK? | Yes/No |
| **Q14** | Will your study involve visiting participants in their homes, public spaces, or a similarly uncontrolled environment, unaccompanied? | Yes/No |
|  | **Risk Assessment** |  |
| **Q15** | Does your study pose any other ethical, safety, regulatory or reputational risk not covered above? (E.g., a risk to the safety and wellbeing of the researchers and other staff?) | Yes/No |
| **Q16** | **ALL APPLICANTS:** If you have answered Yes to ANY of the above questions, your application may be considered as HIGH risk. If, however, you wish to make a case that your application should be considered as STANDARD risk please enter the reasons here. Researchers should note that the SREO or RGEC may decide NOT to agree with the case that you have made. | Yes/No |