

# What is the risk level of my research project?



## IS MY PROJECT HIGH RISK?

If your project meets any of the criteria below then your research is deemed high risk:

- a. Vulnerable participants
- b. Deception or incomplete disclosures
- c. Illegal or harmful activity disclosures, Risk of personal/professional reprisals
- d. Stress, anxiety or negative consequences for the participant
- e. Identification of urgent mental health risks including suicidal ideation and/or self-harm
- f. Potential risk of participants' capacity to give informed consent diminishing during the project
- g. Imaging techniques (eg MRI scans)
- h. Ultrasound or sources of non-ionising radiation
- i. Intrusive procedures, substance use, bodily material collection or DNA/RNA analysis
- j. Parental opt-out consent for the recruitment of under 16's

Once high-risk applications are submitted via REMAS, they will be reviewed at the next relevant RESC review meeting. Click here for [submission dates and deadlines](#).



## IS MY PROJECT LOW RISK?

If your project meets any of the requirements below then your project is deemed to be low risk:

- a. Participants under 16
- b. Will the gatekeeper's involvement in the study influence a participant's decision to take part?
- c. Will the researcher's existing relationship with participants influence their decision to take part?
- d. Discussion of personally sensitive subjects, or medical conditions.
- d. Undue incentives
- e. Will you access private secondary/pre-existing data with identifiable information
- f. Will you conduct observations in a private setting (excluding non-interventional classroom observations with over-16s)?
- g. Does the project involve physical procedures requiring undressing or posing cross-contamination risk?

After submission undergraduate and Postgraduate projects receive a review outcome within 18 working days of submission. PhD and Staff projects will receive an outcome within 21 working days.



## IS MY PROJECT MINIMAL RISK?

You have identified that there are no foreseeable risks to your research participants. Therefore, you may be eligible for the Minimal Risk Ethical Registration Process.

Following submission of the registration form you will be provided with an automated formal confirmation of ethical clearance.

For more information on risk levels, visit our [guidance page](#), or contact the Research Ethics Office at [rec@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:rec@kcl.ac.uk).