

## DOES MY RESEARCH NEED ETHICAL APPROVAL...?



No ethical review  
is required...

if your research falls in the following categories

- uses no data (e.g., theoretical research).
- uses only existing anonymised records (i.e., where you cannot identify an individual).
- uses only data sets that exist in the public domain.
- uses data only for teaching purposes (e.g., class room experiments).
- only preparing a grant application (however, while preparing the application think ahead and reflect on possible ethical implications).

Yes,  
ethical review  
is required

in all other cases if you propose:

- use of human participants (e.g., interviews, focus groups, surveys , etc. - whether in person or online).
- internet research (e.g. Twitter, TikTok and Instagram presents distinct ethical challenges and you are strongly encouraged to seek ethical scrutiny from the REIC).
- use of data that allows you to identify an individual according to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- research projects accessing records and/or the collection of personal data, concerning identifiable individuals as defined by data protection legislation.
- research projects involving the linking or sharing of personal data, special category data (sensitive data) or confidential information beyond the initial consent given.

*Code of Practice for Research Ethics Committee (CoPREC)*