

Potential Adverse Environmental Impact Research Ethics Procedure

Introduction

In accordance with the University's Research Ethics Policy, any research which has the potential for adverse environmental impact must be subject to review and approval from the relevant University research ethics committee. Please note, this procedure specifically relates to environment-related research methodologies and activities, rather than actions individuals may take as part of their everyday working lives. The University's commitments and policies to the environment and sustainability can be found on the [University's Sustainability pages](#).

This procedure outlines what may be considered an environmental impact requiring research ethics approval.

Scope

The University's Research Ethics Policy and this procedure apply with equal force to projects undertaken by staff or students of the University in any location, including joint work with third-party organisations.

Definition

Research which involves adverse environmental impact can be defined as a change or activity which results in an adverse effect on the air, land, water, or inhabitants of an ecosystem. Both short-term and long-term effects are considered an environmental impact.

The below list is not exhaustive but provides an overview of types of research activities which might be considered as having an environmental impact requiring research ethics approval. If a researcher is unsure if the proposed research requires research ethics approval, they should seek advice from the Research Office rescadmin@glyndwr.ac.uk.

- The release of organisms or chemicals into the environment
- Actions that impact the workings of an ecosystem
- The permanent removal or damage of resources from an environment
- The permanent leaving of detrimental materials in an environment
- Actions that may impact the future of environmental research, including oversampling or permanently changing an environmental system

Review Process

All applications for research ethics approval must be submitted through the Wrexham Research Ethics System. Researchers conducting research which may have an adverse environmental impact must comply with any legislative requirements and seek the appropriate permissions, licences, and approvals from the appropriate bodies, e.g., the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), before applying for university research ethics approval.

Principles

- Researchers should consider the preservation and conservation of natural resources being investigated for future researchers.
- Researchers must comply with all relevant environmental legislation and regulations.
- Researchers have a duty to communicate the environmental consequences of their practices and findings.

- Researchers must respect the environment they are conducting research in, seeking appropriate permission, e.g. A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), where required.
- Researchers should have the appropriate risk assessments, appropriate controls, and standard operating procedures in place when conducting research which may have an adverse impact on the environment.

Contacts

All queries relating to this procedure should be directed to the Research Office - rescadmin@glyndwr.ac.uk