

# SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY and SCHOOL OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES

## Joint Schools Research Ethics Committee

The Joint Schools Research Ethics Committee (JSREC) was established in March 2022 by merging the School of the Physical Sciences Research Ethics Committee and the School of Technology Research Ethics Committee.

The scope of the work of the Committee will be research involving human participants and personal data, as set out by the University Research Ethics Committee (UREC) at

<http://www.research-integrity.admin.cam.ac.uk/university-research-ethics-committee>

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### 1. MEMBERSHIP

The JSREC will have the following membership:

- 1.1. As Chair: a faculty member of either the School of Technology or the School of the Physical Sciences, agreed by both Heads of Schools
- 1.2. Up to three additional faculty members from the departments of each School (i.e. up to six in total), nominated by their respective School, with at least one member from each School. Members will not review projects with which they have a conflict of interest.
- 1.3. Members will be appointed for 4 years. Reappointment is allowed.
- 1.4. The Secretaries of the two Schools have nominated the School Research Facilitators (RFs) to act as Secretaries of the JSREC and any specialist Panels it appoints to hear individual cases. Secretarial support for a case will usually be provided by the RF of the originating department, but RFs may provide cover for either School as required.

### 2. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The JSREC shall:

- 2.1. Provide online guidance on the most common methods employed in technology/physical sciences research involving human participants (e.g. controlled experiments, field studies).
- 2.2. Provide advice to Departments on their ethical review process and approve Departmental ethics policies upon request.
- 2.3. Support any departmental investigation of any potential breach of Departmental or School ethics policy upon request.
- 2.4. Provide ethical review for research involving human participation or personal data:
  - 2.4.1. The JSREC may: (i) provide ethical review of an application directly, including seeking specialist, legal or external advice as needed, (ii) refer an application to an appropriate body within the School or University, (iii) appoint a Specialist Panel to review an individual case, which may include external reviewers.
  - 2.4.2. Business will normally be conducted by circulation. A meeting may be convened as deemed necessary by the Chair.
  - 2.4.3. For departments which have their own REC or ethics procedure, JSREC will accept applications only via referral from the Department REC or ethics contact. (These are: the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, the Department of Chemical Engineering and Biology, the Department of Computer Science and Technology, the Department of Engineering, the Department of Geography including the Scott Polar Research Institute, and the Judge Business School.)
  - 2.4.4. For Departments which do not have their own REC or ethics procedure, JSREC will accept applications from researchers directly. (These are: Cambridge Zero, the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, the Department of Earth Sciences, the Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy, the Department of Physics, the Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics, the Institute of Astronomy, the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences, and the Yusuf Hamied Department of Chemistry.)
- 2.5. Report annually to the University Research Ethics Committee.
- 2.6. In fulfilling its terms of reference, and mindful of the University's Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech and the need to have particular regard for the importance of free speech within the law, JSREC will consider whether any decisions that it takes, on policy or other matters, could directly or indirectly (and positively or negatively) affect free speech within the law, and record in its decisions any significant points arising from these deliberations.

### 3. ACCOUNTABILITIES

Accountable to the School of Technology Research Committee and the Council of the School of the Physical Sciences.