

13. Health and Safety

13.1 Health and safety obligations

The University strives for a positive health and safety culture and requires good health and safety management in all aspects of its activities. Research may involve potentially hazardous situations, e.g. working with vulnerable people, or the use of potentially harmful equipment, substances or organisms. The safety of participants and of researchers and other personnel must be given priority at all times, and health and safety regulations must be strictly observed. Researchers should be familiar with, and comply with, the University's health and safety Policy and Standards (see the University's Health and Safety website: www.uwe.ac.uk/healthandsafety) and codes relevant to their research, such as contained in the staff and student handbooks. Researchers should seek to embed health and safety appropriately throughout the life course of the project, and regularly review this issue, for instance at research project meetings. Health and safety breaches may need to be reported to the Health and Safety Executive, and may constitute research misconduct or misconduct, or be subject to criminal proceedings.

13.2 Required training and support

The University will provide training on health and safety, and there is a clear expectation that all staff and MPhil/ PhD students will attend appropriate courses. In particular, all researchers conducting research where risk assessment is necessary must attend a general risk assessment course and specific risk awareness courses as appropriate to their research, e.g. Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) training. Failure to attend required training will be regarded as a disciplinary matter. Advice on health and safety can be obtained from the University Health and Safety Manager. The University expects research risk assessment to form a part of undergraduate and masters level courses where the student will conduct a research project. Advice on risk assessment can be obtained via the Health and Safety Team.

13.3 Further Guidance

Health and Safety guidance for research is embedded within the University's general provisions for health and safety. Further guidance on health and safety requirements and advice relevant to research can be found at **Annex 6**.