

BR-UK GENERAL CODE OF ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

Background & Purpose

This code of conduct will help ensure that BR-UK research is conducted:

1. to advance scientific understanding of behaviour in promoting wellbeing for individuals and for society, including economic, physical, mental, social and environmental wellbeing.
2. with the highest standards of integrity, rigour and responsibility.

UKRI Guidance and Expectations

The ESRC Framework for Research Ethics¹, sets out good practice for social science research, detailing their principles and expectations of researchers, research organisations (ROs) and research ethics committees (RECs). All members of BR-UK should be familiar with this guidance and that of their employing institutions.

This document outlines the principles which expand upon the UKRI Framework and which should inform the conduct of BR-UK members.

BR-UK Principles

1. Integrity and Honesty: BR-UK members should conduct all research activities with honesty, integrity, and transparency, ensuring that all data is accurately collected, analysed, and reported.
2. Respect: Respect the dignity, privacy, and rights of others, including colleagues and research participants at all times.
3. Quality and Rigour: BR-UK members should uphold the highest standards of quality and rigour in research methodologies, ensuring that studies are well-designed, properly executed, and evaluated regularly.
4. Objectivity and Impartiality: Maintain objectivity and impartiality in research, avoiding conflicts of interest and biases that may compromise the integrity of findings.
5. Openness and Collaboration: Foster an environment of openness, collaboration, and intellectual exchange, promoting the sharing of ideas, data, and resources within the research community.
6. Responsible Conduct: Adhere to ethical guidelines and regulations governing research, including those related to human subjects, intellectual property, and publication ethics.

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/councils/esrc/guidance-for-applicants/research-ethics-guidance/framework-for-research-ethics/our-core-principles/>

7. Accountability and Transparency: Take responsibility for the ethical conduct of research, being transparent about methods, findings, and potential limitations, and addressing any concerns or discrepancies promptly and transparently. All research outputs should be compliant with our position statement on Open Science.
8. Social Responsibility: BR-UK members should consider the broader societal implications of research, including potential risks and benefits, and strive to contribute positively to the advancement of knowledge and the well-being of society. BR-UK will seek to further the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and will not collaborate with or accept funding, money or other incentives from the following industries: tobacco, alcohol, gambling, oil, or arms.
9. Respect for Diversity and Inclusion: Embrace diversity and inclusion in all aspects of research, respecting the perspectives, cultures, and contributions of individuals from diverse backgrounds and communities and in line with the BR-UK Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Intersectionality statement.
10. Continuous Learning and Improvement: Commit to ongoing learning, professional development, and self-reflection, continuously striving to improve research practices and ethical standards

Change History

This policy was originally approved by the BR-UK Directorate in June 2024.

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Change Made By	Effective Date	Summary of change	If significant, who approved the change: