CODE OF ETHICAL PRACTICE ON RESEARCH/EXPERIMENTATION WITH
HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

1 The University has obligations under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act
1974. Its Health and Safety Policy identifies the committees and individuals
with responsibility for ensuring that the University has discharged its corporate
obligations for the health and safety of its employees, students and visitors.

2 Whilst the University has a corporate “duty of care” for its employees and
students, it has established an organisational and procedural framework
(describing the University’s Health and Safety Manual) within which certain
health and safety responsibilities are defined. All members of staff are
responsible for the health and safety implications of their decisions, and are
responsible for the health and safety of staff, students, equipment, substances,
materials and the workplaces under their control, be that directly, or through a
third party.

3 The following code of ethical practice applies to research/experimentation
involving health and safety implications:

   (a) researchers are responsible for carrying out a risk assessment for their
       research project prior to undertaking any practical work in accordance
       with their Department’s local code of ethics;

   (b) researchers should seek advice from specialist officers, including the
       University Safety Officer, Radiation Protection Officer, Microbiological
       Safety Officer, Biological Safety Officer, Chemical Safety Adviser, and
       Laser Safety Officer, as appropriate, in order to inform their risk
       assessment. Ignorance of legislation or best practice is not an excuse for
       failing to meet acceptable standards of health and safety;

   (c) researchers are responsible for the conduct of practical work in a manner
       that reduces the risk of the work as far as is reasonably practicable (or as
       far as is practicable as may be the case). As in (b) above, consultation
       may be necessary to determine the relevant standards that must be met.

4 Any researcher (employee or student) who does not comply with the code of
ethical practice jeopardises the reputation of the University and may be subject
to disciplinary measures.

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