

Ethical Research Collaboration Policy

1. The University of Greenwich has an excellent and growing reputation for the high quality of our research and teaching and is a special place of scholarship where people achieve extraordinary things, often exceeding their own expectations of themselves¹.
2. The University of Greenwich takes its place in society seriously and is justifiably proud of its Sustainability reputation ². It promotes a healthy and supportive environment for students and staff and expects that its collaborators demonstrate similar aspirations.
3. The University's Ethical Investment Policy³, which applies to all staff, students and stakeholders of the University of Greenwich, aims to ensure an ethical approach to all investments made by the University, by limiting investment in areas that conflict with the University's core values, taking account of ethical, environmental, corporate governance and social issues.
4. Many of the academic staff based at the University of Greenwich engage in research, enterprise and knowledge exchange ("research") activity. This document, in conjunction with a number of other policies and guidance including but not limited to; research integrity⁴, ethical investment³, research ethics⁵, codes of practice pertaining to events⁶, and the professional rights and responsibilities of staff⁷, including intellectual property considerations⁸, define the framework within which this research is conducted.
5. Whilst recognising the important principle of academic freedom, and noting that research and knowledge exchange usually requires collaboration with external partners (through funding, access to resources, conferences/workshops and other similar fora etc) there may be circumstances where it is inconsistent with the ethical stance of the University of Greenwich to engage in a collaboration with a particular partner, either in general, or for a

¹ The University Strategic Plan 2017-2022 <https://docs.gre.ac.uk/rep/vco/strategic-plan>

² <https://docs.gre.ac.uk/rep/ef/sustainability-policy>

³ <https://docs.gre.ac.uk/rep/finance/ethical-investment-policy>

⁴ <https://www.gre.ac.uk/research/governance-and-awards/research-integrity>

⁵ <https://docs.gre.ac.uk/rep/vco/research-ethics-policy>

⁶ <https://docs.gre.ac.uk/rep/vco/code-of-practice-for-the-booking-and-conduct-of-events>

⁷ <https://docs.gre.ac.uk/rep/human-resources/code-of-good-practice-rearding-the-professional-rights-and-responsibilities-of-academic-staff>

⁸ <https://docs.gre.ac.uk/rep/vco/intellectual-property-policy>

specific activity, where that activity might be inconsistent with the aims and objectives of the University.

6. In considering whether to engage with a given collaborator and/or a specific activity, particular attention should be given to the likelihood of causing conflict (or its perception) with this University stance, tensioned against the independence of the researcher.
7. Where collaborations may conflict with the University's core values, such as but not limited to; activities which are potentially injurious to health; destabilise community cohesion; threaten stability within the stakeholder group or wider; contribute to the violation of rules, regulation, laws, conventions, norms *etc* in respect of human rights, employment practices & conditions and climate change; these must be flagged with the Faculty contact at GRE and discussed with the relevant Pro-Vice Chancellor.
8. In circumstances where conflict may be evident, prior approval before engaging in such activity should be sought from the University Research Ethics Committee.
9. It is likely, indeed reasonable, to envisage a situation where it is possible to engage with a collaborator for one activity but not another; or to not engage with a particular collaborator irrespective of the activity; or any activity irrespective of the collaborator.
10. In the case of funded projects, a risk assessment must be undertaken by GRE as part of its due diligence process.
11. This policy sets the minimum expectations on academic staff at the University of Greenwich but recognises that individuals may have a different set of personal or professional ethics which may be more restrictive than set out here.
12. An individual who may wish to raise concerns relating to research collaborations in general may do so directly with the GRE. This may be done in confidence and they are entitled to receive a response to their concerns. Individuals are protected under the University's Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Policy.⁹

⁹ <https://docs.gre.ac.uk/rep/human-resources/public-interest-whistleblowing-disclosure-policy-and-procedure>