

Ethics Support FAQs

Why is ethics important in the HBP?

Ethics leads to better quality research as it ensures that researchers are engaged with understanding the full implications of their work. HBP research has, potentially, a high social impact. Therefore, it is important to consider the consequences of this research fully. Additionally, because of the high profile of the HBP as a flagship project which requires considerable financial investment it is important to demonstrate strong research integrity and adherence to ethical standards. This shows that the HBP is a good investment of public money and builds trust in the project overall.

Who is my main point of contact for questions about ethical issues in my SP?

Each SP has an [Ethics Rapporteur](#). The HBP Ethics Rapporteur is a scientist, a technologist or an administrator engaged in the work of the HBP who is designated with responsibility to communicate with the Ethics and Society program about the ethics, and the science and technology work of the subproject. The programme aim is to deepen understanding within and between both domains.

Ethics Rapporteurs regularly communicate with Ethics Advisory Board members and with the Ethics Management team. Joint meetings between the three bodies are held biannually. You can also send questions directly to Ethics Management via hcp.compliance@dmu.ac.uk or to the EAB via hcp-eab@googlegroups.com.

Is there any independent oversight of ethical issues in the HBP?

Yes. The HBP has appointed a group of [external ethics experts](#) to provide advice on ethical issues. This group works voluntarily for the project and is totally independent from it. The EAB liaise closely with the Ethics Management team and the Rapporteurs (see above) to ensure engagement with the ethics of HBP research at the highest level.

[EAB SOP.](#)

How do I register an ethical concern?

PORE is the Point Of Registration for Ethical concerns. A form is available on the HBP website: <http://www.hbp-pore.eu/>. This form can be submitted either under your name or anonymously. The registrar of PORE raises the ethical issues outlined in the form with the Ethics Management team who decide on an immediate course of action. This action may include referring it to the

EAB (see above) or the Ombudsperson for expert advice. However, the information will be treated confidentially and only meta-data will be made publicly available.

There is also an SOP on Research Integrity. This document outlines the HBP's position on research integrity principles and investigations of research misconduct.

Why do I need to fill in the compliance surveys?

Compliance is the bridge between top-down European Commission requirements and the research undertaken in the HBP. The compliance surveys are the most effective way for the Ethics Management team to establish an overview of ethical issues in the HBP. The survey is based on the H2020 ethics self-assessment and as such allows the Task Leaders to meet several of the grant agreements. It is also a practical demonstration that the HBP has a full consideration of ethics in the research it produces.

More info at hbp.compliance@dmu.ac.uk

Does data governance connect with research ethics?

Yes, the uploading, use, and sharing of data is a major concern in the HBP. For example, ethical data issues might include; whether the data used has been acquired from ethically compliant research, whether having the data breaches the privacy or confidentiality of research participants, and whether there are suitable data use agreements or licences in place for those downloading the data.

[Data Policy Manual](#)

What ethics work is being done and by whom?

[SP12](#) carries out research to identify and address the conceptual, social, ethical, legal and cultural implications and challenges raised by HBP research. We focus on foresight, neuroethics, philosophy, public engagement, and researcher awareness. SP12 also translates ethics research into practice by implementing ethics management and compliance programmes for the HBP, and collaborates with an independent Ethics Advisory Board (EAB), as well as produces Opinions on the most immediately relevant ethical issues within the HBP.

Where can I find out more detailed information about these issues?

There is more information in the ethics videos here [add link]. Additionally, SOPs give lots of detail all the above and other ethical issues.