17. Health and Safety

Introduction

The Board of Governors has ultimate responsibility for the health and safety of staff, students and other individuals while they are on the institution's premises and in other places where they might be affected by its operations. Health and Safety is a core management function and University managers are responsible for ensuring that the Health & Safety policy and associated codes of practice are communicated effectively and that staff and students are competent to fulfil their health and safety roles.

The primary responsibility for implementing the Health & Safety Policy lies with the Vice-Chancellor, assisted by University Executive and senior managers. The effective delivery of this Policy also requires everyone accepting a personal responsibility for their own health and safety and that of others and the provision of professional and competent support and advice to all areas of the University. The University's aim is to achieve best practice in health and safety through continual improvement and the control of risk whilst ensuring the University achieves its vision to be a research-rich, business-focused, professional University with a global reputation for academic excellence.

Health and safety legislation applies just as much to research as it does to any other area of industry. Despite the inherent elements of uncertainty, it is possible for research workers to innovate without exposing themselves or others to unnecessary health and safety related risks

All researchers must:
- take responsibility for their own health and safety and ensure that they don't compromise the health and safety of others by the things they do or fail to do
- work safely and efficiently
- follow the Health & Safety policy, guidance and safe systems of work
- attend training and put it into practice in the workplace
- use protective equipment as recommended
- not change research or other work protocols without first discussing the change with their manager and specialist safety advisers as appropriate
- report incidents that have resulted in, or could have resulted in, injury or damage
- assist in the investigation of accidents with the aim of introducing preventative measures
- report unsafe conditions or actions
- work co-operatively to improve health and safety standards and performance.

It is important that when considering a research project that all health safety and welfare issues are considered at the planning stage and that the appropriate risk assessment is completed and approved taking into account all significant risks to health and safety.

To report an ethical incident not covered by the University or Faculty Health and Safety policy, complete the form which can be found here.

Further information is available at this link.

For support for the mental health and well-being of researchers who have been negatively affected as a consequence of conducting research with groups of vulnerable people, refer to Health and Safety guidance here.