

To: Heads of Departments, Executive Deans,
Departmental HSLOs and DHSOs, Faculty
Managers

For Information and
action

New guidance on research risk assessments

There is new guidance on how to carry out research risk assessments. It is part of the University's health and safety risk assessment standard.

The new webpage can be found here: [Research risk assessment](#)

What does it cover?

The new guidance clarifies the principal investigator or researcher are responsible for ensuring research risk assessments are carried out as part of the planning stage and as the nature of research changes. It highlights common research hazards and risks, explains when to carry out assessments and has guidance on how to produce suitable and sufficient risk assessments.

There is an example social science research risk assessment to demonstrate what a suitable and sufficient risk assessment looks like. It follows the University's standard and includes the expected level of detail required. There is also an action flow chart to guide research risk assessors through the process.

Who needs to take action?

Principal investigators or researchers who are responsible for research activity will need to review their current risk assessments to ensure they meet the new standard. This may already be happening as part of a wider departmental review. If it's not, they will need to speak to their [departmental HSLO, DHSO or their link Health and Safety Advisor](#) for further advice.