

**The Research Council's comprehensive
work on research integrity and ethics**



Clearer requirements for research ethics will be established in all:

- calls for proposals
- application templates
- collaboration agreements
- contracts

All application templates shall include a requirement for research ethics self-evaluation.



Why are we doing this?

- High ethical standard is essential for maintaining trust in research
- Clarifying what we expect in terms of ethical reflection in research proposals.
- Ensuring equal treatment



Requirement for a high standard of research ethics

- **Until now**, a research ethics statement was only required if the applicant deemed it necessary
- **From 2025**, everyone who applies to the Research Council must explain the ethical issues in the project and describe how this will be handled
- The responsibility for ensuring compliance with research ethics standards lies with the individual researcher and the research institution
- The panel's assessment and the Research Council's funding decision do not constitute a research ethics approval





Application template

Until now:

1. Excellence

1.2 Research questions and hypotheses, theoretical approach and methodology

- If there are ethical issues to consider, describe how these will be dealt with.

Please note:

See more information on ethical standards in research.

New in the application template:

- Describe how ethical issues will be dealt with
- Please note:
- All applicants are required to provide a brief description on how ethical issues will be dealt with, to ensure the panel that there is an appropriate plan for management of ethical issues. If a more detailed description is needed, this may be included in other sections of the project description, such as in the methods section or in the data management plan to be submitted if the project receives funding.
- The responsibility for ensuring that the research ethics standard is followed lies with the individual researcher and research institution (cf. Research Ethics Act).
- The panel's assessment and the Research Council's funding decision do not entail any research ethics approval.
- See more information and guidance on the following website: ethical standards in research

Guidelines to the referees

D. The assessment criteria

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Excellence – quality of R&D activities

- Quality of the research questions, hypotheses and project objectives, and the extent to which they are clearly and adequately specified.
- Credibility and appropriateness of the theoretical approach, research design and use of scientific methods. Appropriate consideration of interdisciplinary approaches.
- **The extent to which appropriate consideration has been given to ethical issues**, safety issues, gender dimension in research content, and use of stakeholder/user knowledge **if appropriate**.

Regarding "ethical issues": The assessment of a proposal is not an ethical approval of the research project. If relevant, the applicant should briefly have described how ethical issues will be dealt with, to assure the panel that there is an appropriate plan for management of ethical issues.

• Nytt punkt 1.3 - Ethical issues

- **The applicant should briefly describe how ethical issues will be dealt with and demonstrate that there is an appropriate plan for management of relevant ethical issues.**

Regarding "ethical issues"

- The description is important to ensure the panel that there is an appropriate plan for management of the most important ethical issues in the project. If a more detailed description is needed, this may be included in other sections of the project description, such as in the methods section or in the data management plan to be submitted if the project receives funding.
- If there are research ethics issues of relevance to the project that the panel believes should have been addressed, the panel must explain what aspects are lacking and whether this is a shortcoming. Similarly, if there are ethical aspects that the proposal addresses successfully, the panel should explain why they consider this a strength.
- The responsibility for ensuring that the research ethics standard is followed lies with the individual researcher and research institution (cf. Research Ethics Act)
- The referees' assessment and the Research Council's decision on funding do not entail any research ethics approval.

Gradual implementation:

- The requirement for a research ethics self-evaluation has been introduced in thematic calls for Researcher Projects and Collaborative and Knowledge-building Projects that had deadline of March 5.
- During 2025, the plan is to implement this requirement in all calls
- You can find more information on the information page Research Ethics Requirements. [Ethical standards in research](#)

