

If your research in the department involves human participants (or their data), you may well have to obtain Ethics clearance before you start that work. If those participants are children, elderly people, or other vulnerable populations, you will also have to obtain a record check from the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

<http://www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

Details about the application process can be found here

http://www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk/using_the_website/applicant.aspx

Students working with vulnerable populations such as children or elderly people are required to have their record checked by the Criminal Records Bureau prior to undertaking this work. The process is known as disclosure, and can take some weeks to set up. It is advisable to obtain a form as soon as the project topic has been chosen.

Note that ethics approval and CRB check are separate requirements, involving distinct procedures: obtaining Ethics clearance does not preclude the need for a CRB check if working with vulnerable populations, nor vice versa.