

Research involving human participants and/or samples

The use of human participants and/or samples will be allowed in all grant applications to the Academy of Medical Sciences. Research involving human participants is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as:

“any social science, biomedical, behavioural or epidemiological activity that entails systematic collection or analysis of data with the intent to generate new knowledge; in which human beings:

(i) are exposed to manipulation, intervention, observation or other interaction with investigators either directly or through alteration of their environment;

or

(ii) become individually identifiable through investigators’ collection, preparation or use of biological material or medical or other records”.

Research involving human participants is governed by principles outlined in:

- the [Declaration of Helsinki](#)
- the Nuremberg Code
- the [Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences \(CIOMS\)](#)

all of which set out requirements with regard to the rights and safety of research participants and standards for research design and conduct.

Prior to any research being conducted, all relevant regulatory and ethical approval must be obtained and all relevant legislation should be adhered to. This legislation would include General Data Protection Regulation, Human Tissue Act 2004, and Human Tissue (Scotland) Act 2006 for those based in Scotland. Where research would be carried out outside the UK we would expect the principles of UK legislation to be applied and maintained, along with any local legislation.

You must notify us of any adverse clinical effect involving human participants.

Participants’ expenses

Reasonable participant expenses will be allowed on Academy of Medical Sciences grants schemes. These expenses shouldn’t provide any undue inducement to participate and should generally only be used for compensating for time lost to participate, and travel and subsistence costs.

We recommend that the [NIHR payment guidance](#) is used to inform the payment of expenses to participants. Where research is taking place overseas the principles of the guidance should be followed, and special care should be taken to avoid inducement in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).