



Research Ethics at Hartpury University

Hartpury University promotes the highest standards in its research and teaching practice and conducts world-leading applied research across the agriculture, animal, equine, veterinary nursing and sport and exercise sectors. Our research and knowledge exchange directly informs taught programmes and real-world practice.

Veterinary Nursing

Research in the Veterinary Nursing department aims to improve the lives of animals and their veterinary caregivers by investigating how veterinary nursing professionals are trained, how they practise, how they improve their practice, and how animal owners respond to veterinary advice.

Animal and Agriculture

Research in the Animal and Agriculture department focuses around themes of One Health, embedding technology into agricultural practice, improving animal welfare, underpinning veterinary decision-making with evidence and conserving wildlife through positive action. Research that takes place in all of these areas benefits people, animals and the planet. This includes projects that specifically focus on the wellbeing and welfare of owners, pets and production species.

Equine

Research in the Equine department is extremely varied but includes advancing evidence-informed practice in equine therapy and performance, improving the welfare of working and sports horses, improving equine welfare through the study of the horse-saddlery-rider interaction and advancing rider health, wellbeing and performance.

Sport & Exercise Science

Research within the Sport & Exercise Science department has a wide and varied profile, including work on human performance, sports coaching and physical education, physical activity and public health, nutrition, sports management and development, football and rugby science.

Hartpury University is committed to ensuring that its research involving human and animal participants is conducted in a way that respects the dignity, rights, and welfare of participants, and minimises risk to participants, researchers, third parties, and to the University itself. The University requires that all such research be subject to appropriate ethical review. The Hartpury University Ethics Committee has overall responsibility for the University's ethical review process. The Committee includes external members from other academic institutions, both qualitative and quantitative researchers, a Veterinary Surgeon and a registered Veterinary Nurse. The University expects all staff and students engaged in research to comply with the Hartpury University [Code of Research Practice](#) and to adhere to all institutional ethical guidelines and processes.



All research at Hartpury University meets the highest ethical standards, including that which involves human and / or animal participants. The University is committed to the three 'R's of reduction, replacement and refinement in relation to human and animal research, and these are always considered in the ethics review process. Research involving animals is non-invasive and subject to rigorous scrutiny by the Hartpury University Ethics Committee. The University does not currently hold a Home Office Licence; research involving live animals which would require such a licence does not take place at Hartpury University. The University does not house experimental animals for research projects.

Our research is designed to answer specific questions that contribute to scientific understanding in a variety of fields. To this end participants who accept the associated risks of research will know that they are contributing to the future welfare of others, humans or animals, and should make their own decision about participating through a process of informed consent. We respect diversity amongst participants and aim to ensure studies are designed to be both inclusive and transparent about the nature of research being conducted.

Sustainability is embedded across all of Hartpury University's teaching and research activities, and so we endeavour to undertake research which will also positively impact ecosystems and or the environment more generally. The University is committed to promoting inclusive practice in research activities and this is something that is considered as part of the ethics review process for all research projects.