The Trinity Laban Research Ethics Committee is charged with ensuring that research and performances across the institution are safe and ethical; it does not take a view on artistic content or academic merit.

We consider ethical approval applications from Trinity Laban students and staff, both for research involving human participants and for performances/health & safety, for

* All research conducted at Trinity Laban;
* research conducted by Trinity Laban staff outside Trinity Laban where the research is conducted by staff as part of their development hours; and/or if Trinity Laban will be cited in published work resulting from such work.

REC does not consider ethical applications relating to research based elsewhere where Trinity Laban staff are employed as freelancers (the ethical processed of the research host are then to be used).

The applications are submitted to the REC

* Directly: by members of staff
* Directly: by MPhil/PhD/MFA students
* by the relevant Programme Leaders, who present a summary and submit any applications: by all other students, both UG/PG.

To assist in deciding whether a research project or a performance should potentially be considered by the REC, there follow two extracts from our published guidance.

For **projects with a performance-based outcome**, the ethics guidance asks:

Does your project involve

* Explicit material (for example, performances involving nudity)
* Material that has potential to cause serious offence to members of the Trinity Laban community (examples might include performances that depict religious or racial groupings in derogatory terms, either deliberately or unintentionally)
* Material that may be unsuitable for viewing by children (for example, the use or depiction of strong language and/or violence in a performance/other project)
* Depiction or action of physical harm on/to yourself or other participants
* Projects that investigate, and therefore may effect, the mental health and/or wellbeing of participants
* Performances or other projects that occur outside of the Trinity Laban estate (in public spaces, churches etc.)
* Performances or other projects that utilize potentially harmful production effects (complete darkness, dry ice, strobe lighting etc.)
* Performances or other projects that involve temporary architectural constructions
* Any other project or part of a project that, in your judgement, may have ethical implications

If the answer is ‘yes’ to any of the above, students should discuss their project with their teacher/supervisor and find the appropriate guidance and ethics application docs via the links given below.

For **projects with a research-based outcome** which involve human participants, the guidance states:

* Fundamental ethical principles are integrity, honesty, confidentiality, voluntary participation, impartiality and the avoidance of personal risk to individuals or social groups.
* In all circumstances, researchers (which by definition, includes individuals also undertaking postgraduate research) must consider the ethical implications and psychological consequences for the participants in their research. The essential principle is that the investigation should be considered from the standpoint of all participants; foreseeable threats to their psychological well-being, health, values or dignity should be eliminated. Researchers should recognise that, in our multi-cultural and multi-ethnic society and where investigations involve individuals of different ages, gender and social background, the researchers may not have sufficient knowledge of the implications of any investigation for the participants. It should be borne in mind that the best judge of whether an investigation will cause offence may be members of the population from which the participants in the research are to be drawn.

**Trinity Laban’s Research Ethics Guidelines are currently under review regarding projects that involve students investigating the neurodiversity, mental health or trauma of other students/ external participants/ themselves. We are seeking to ensure that students are supported to undertake research projects which are already planned or have the potential to bring substantial benefits, whilst reducing the number of projects that may require significant safeguarding support to ensure that the needs of the community can continue to be met. If you have a planned project in this area, please consider revising your topic or discuss with your Programme Leader well in advance.**

Students should discuss any potential ethical issues their project raises with their supervisor in the first instance.

Programme Leaders should present a summary of all student projects to the relevant REC meeting on which projects raising potential ethical issues are highlighted.

**Application docs and relevant guidance, both for research and for performances/H&S, are published on the Trinity Laban website at**

[**https://www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/research-and-knowledge-exchange/research-ethics/**](https://www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/research-and-knowledge-exchange/research-ethics/)

**and also on Moodle:**

<https://moodle.trinitylaban.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=582>

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