## Guidelines for ethics applications for a comprehensive project

A “comprehensive” project is a research project consisting of more than one study/experiment.

**Note**: This is not a how-to guide, but a list of requirements/considerations you must meet to submit an application for a comprehensive project.

1. The project should address a *single* question. It should not be an eclectic collection of unrelated studies.
   1. As a rule of thumb, consider if reviewers of a UKRI grant proposal containing the proposed set of studies would deem that they belong to a single UKRI project. If yes, it would be acceptable to submit a comprehensive ethics application. If the studies seem to be put together ad-hoc, you will be asked to submit separate applications.
   2. The above guideline is intentionally vague as it is not possible to anticipate all combinations of studies that are acceptable. Please use your discretion.
2. In addition to a series of studies using a common modality (e.g., a set of eye-tracking experiments), it is acceptable to combine experiments with different modalities or approaches. For example, a project can have:
   1. An EEG experiment, a TMS experiment and a behavioural experiment
   2. Both a qualitative and a quantitative component
3. Each study/experiment within the project should have its own set of documents (e.g., consent, debrief), especially if they use different protocols or participants (e.g., older and young adults).
4. There is no minimum or maximum number of studies within a project.
5. The current system of requesting approval for a single imminent study will still be in place. You do not *have to* compile multiple studies into a single project.
6. The project should NOT exceed **7 years**.
   1. An update should be submitted every **3 years** to ensure that the details are up to date. Even if nothing has changed, please submit an update to indicate that.
   2. It is the responsibility of the applicant to keep track of this timeline. Please comply with this. It will be helpful for any forthcoming audits.
7. If the ethics application is being submitted by a **student**, it cannot exceed the duration of their enrolment. For example,
   1. A PhD student’s project cannot exceed (1+)3 years, if they apply at the beginning of their programme.
   2. A Level 4 honours thesis student’s project cannot exceed a year.
8. The application can, and should, be amended as needed to add or remove researchers (e.g., research assistants, thesis students, interns, etc.) or for any other mid-project changes.
9. There might be situations where one of the studies in a comprehensive project is high-risk, but the rest are not. In such cases, the entire application will be considered high-risk and will go through a ‘full review’ evaluation instead of fast-track review. Please feel free to split the application into two or more separate applications, if needed.
10. Each Comprehensive project application will be assessed as a ‘Medium-Risk’ application, at least in the initial trial period. Plan accordingly, as the review might take two weeks. If it has any study that is high-risk, it will be assessed as a ‘High-Risk’ application, as mentioned in point 9.