

Definition of Research.

The Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) definition is adopted with the omission of the word 'original' for undergraduate and postgraduate research below doctoral level.

Defined as "an original investigation undertaken in order to gain knowledge and understanding. It includes work of direct relevance to the needs of commerce and industry, as well as to the public and voluntary sectors; scholarship*; the invention and generation of ideas, images, performances and artefacts including design, where these lead to new or substantially improved insights; and the use of existing knowledge in experimental development to produce new or substantially improved materials, devices, products and processes, including design and construction. It excludes routine testing and analysis of materials, components and processes, e.g. for the maintenance of national standards, as distinct from the development of new analytical techniques. It also excludes the development of teaching materials that do not embody original research."

*Scholarship is defined as "the creation, development and maintenance of the intellectual infrastructure of subjects and disciplines, in forms such as dictionaries, scholarly editions catalogues and contributions to major research databases."

(RAE, <http://www.rae.ac.uk/default.htm>)

All research at SHU must undergo ethical scrutiny. For library studies, secondary data analysis and other low risk research which does not involve human participants, researchers should complete and retain the SHUREC1 Checklist. Research students should have the SHUREC1 signed by their supervisor

