

Research Participation Accessibility Audit

A pre-study audit of recruitment, consent, participation, data and participant experience.

Tool type

Audit

Primary users

Research teams, universities and partner institutions

Use note: This is a practical institutional resource. It is not a diagnostic instrument, clinical assessment, or legally sufficient consent/approval document. Adapt to local law, policy, ethics requirements and individual needs.

Pre-study accessibility audit

Complete before recruitment. Actual human-participant research must follow the appropriate ethics/IRB/REC pathway and site/jurisdiction requirements.

Status	Audit item	Evidence / action
☐	Participant eligibility criteria are scientifically justified and do not exclude people simply because they use AAC, need support, or communicate differently.	
☐	Recruitment materials are understandable and available in suitable formats.	
☐	Consent information is accessible and gives enough time for questions and decision-making.	
☐	Assent/capacity/support logic is defined where relevant and consistent with applicable law and ethics approval.	
☐	Communication and sensory adjustments can be requested before participation.	
☐	The study setting, timing and burden have been reviewed with autistic people or appropriate representatives.	
☐	Payment and expense arrangements are transparent and not coercive.	
☐	Withdrawal procedures are simple and explained clearly.	
☐	Data collection is limited to what is necessary for the approved purpose.	
☐	Privacy, access, storage, transfer, retention and disposal are	

Status	Audit item	Evidence / action
	documented.	
☐	Safeguarding, distress and adverse-event escalation routes are defined as relevant.	
☐	Participants are told whether individual findings or overall results will be returned.	
☐	The team has a process for recording accessibility issues and corrective actions.	
☐	Co-production contributors receive appropriate recognition and/or compensation where applicable.	

Decision

Ready to recruit? Yes / No / Conditional

Conditions or unresolved actions:

Responsible person and due date: