

## Different kinds of animal experimentation at the Open University: Research and Education

The Open University conducts, permits and/or facilitates harmful animal experiments, defined here as causing - or having the potential to cause – pain, suffering or lasting harm including death before, during or after experiments, in two distinct fields.

The table below outlines the differences between the experiments in these two fields – in purpose, in methodology and in law.

Arena and animal species	Purpose of experiments	Methodology	Legal aspects
<b><i>Educational animal experiments</i></b>			
Residential school SXR270: Rats	to <b>teach students known facts</b> about metabolism	Rats are killed by staff; pieces of rat liver are given to students to experiment on.	The animals are killed by trained staff using Schedule 1 methods. Thus <b>no Home Office licence is required</b> under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASP).
Residential school SXR270: Caterpillars	to <b>teach students known facts</b> about the transport of substances across gut cell membranes.	Caterpillars are killed by staff; pieces of their skin are given to students to experiment on.	Caterpillars are invertebrates which are not protected by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASP). Thus <b>no Home Office licence is required</b> .
Residential school SXR370: Rats	to <b>teach students known facts</b> about physiology and metabolism in adipose tissue (fat)	Rats are killed by staff; pieces of rat fat are given to students to experiment on.	The animals are killed by trained staff using Schedule 1 methods. Thus <b>no Home Office licence is required</b> under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASP).
Residential school SXR371: Rabbits	to <b>teach students known facts</b> about the biochemistry of adipose tissue (fat)	Newborn rabbits are killed by staff; pieces of their fat are given to students to experiment on.	The animals are killed by trained staff using Schedule 1 methods. Thus <b>no Home Office licence is required</b> under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASP).

Residential school SXR372: Locusts	to <b>teach students known facts</b> about muscle mechanics and neural control.	Students experiment on live locusts, which are then killed and their isolated body-parts experimented on further	Locusts are invertebrates which are not protected by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPAs). Thus <b>no Home Office licence is required.</b>
Residential school SXR373: Locusts	to <b>teach students known facts</b> about the biochemistry of muscle.	Students experiment on isolated body-parts from locusts.	Locusts are invertebrates which are not protected by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPAs). Thus <b>no Home Office licence is required.</b>
Day school for course S324	to <b>teach students known facts</b> about working with microscope slides.	Students are given pre-prepared microscope slides of foetal and neonatal rabbits to stain, examine and draw.	The animals are killed by staff of a 'commercial firm' who embed the tissue in wax before sending it to the OU. Thus <b>no Home Office licence is required</b> under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPAs).
<b><i>Animal experiments in OU medical research</i></b>			
Day-old chicks, rodents	to attempt to <b>learn new facts</b> about <b>human</b> medical conditions	Animals are experimented upon while alive, then killed and examined. The experiments have the potential to cause pain, suffering or lasting harm.	The animals are covered by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPAs) both in terms of species and in terms of the type of experimentation due to the potential to cause pain, suffering or lasting harm. <b>They are therefore licensed by the Home Office.</b>