

PREPARE for better science course

Course description: This online course is aimed at research students and researchers at any stage of their career who are actively planning, supervising, or managing research involving the use of live animals or animal derived material. NOTE - This course does not require participants to hold a personal licence or to have undertaken licensee training.

In summary:

Course title	PREPARE for better science
Who for	Individuals at any stage of their career who are actively involved in planning, supervising or managing research using animals, or animal-derived material.
Length	3x 3-4hour live webinars (spread over 3 days), including a minimum of one 15-minute comfort break.
Format	Three live webinar style sessions (*interactive with group activities and discussion). Plus post-webinar tests and some individual homework activities.
Overall Purpose	To enable participants to: identify what implementation of the PREPARE guidelines means in the context of their own research activities; understand what this looks like in practice; practice planning a study in accordance with PREPARE.
Key content	<p>1. Theory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session 1 – formulation of the study includes: literature searches (why do them, using evidence to select the best experimental approach, and overview of useful methods, tools and resources); legal issues (how to identify the research framework and requirements that relate to the proposed study); ethical issues (general questions that should be discussed relating to the 3Rs, the 3S's, severity and human endpoints); key information for experimental design and statistical analysis (defining the experimental unit, what you need to know to calculate numbers in advance, steps to minimise sources of bias). • Session 2 – dialogue between scientists and the animal facility includes: objectives, timescale, funding and division of labour (a general guide to collaborating and communicating with non-scientists, animal carers and technologists in an open and transparent way); facility evaluation (points to consider in terms of a study's facility, support staff and equipment requirements); education and training (identifying individuals strengths, weakness and competencies in terms of skills and knowledge plus freely available tools and resources to support CPD); health and safety (identifying potential health risks for both humans and animals during the lifespan of a study, plus common approaches to minimise or manage these risks). • Session 3 - methods includes: test substances (key information to communicate

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	<p>regarding test substances, plus reviewing practicality and validity); experimental animals (key information to consider and communicate regarding the choice, husbandry, care and use of species or strain); quarantine and health monitoring (key information to consider and communicate that may impact animal health and welfare before and during the study); housing and husbandry (key information to consider and communicate that may impact animal health and welfare throughout a study); experimental procedures (the development and implementation of refinements to minimise uncontrolled variables and confounding factors); end of study (identifying and implementing the best approach to humane killing, or the release, re-use, re-homing of animals); necropsy (key points to consider if collecting data or samples post-mortem).</p> <p>2. Activities:</p> <p>Participants will have their understanding of the theoretical content of each session assessed by means of an online test and through the completion of session activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants will use section A of the PREPARE checklist to construct a lay summary for their work. • Participants will be given a study management plan template document (based around section B of the PREPARE checklist) and have the opportunity to practice completing it for a pre-specified project to illustrate how it could be used. • Participants will use section C of the PREPARE checklist to review the information within a research paper reporting animal work and discuss the replicability of the work described.
Learning outcomes	<p>By the end of this course participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deliver better science by planning studies using the PREPARE checklist. • identify what they can do differently and understand how to implement change to plan studies in accordance with the PREPARE guidelines. • reflect upon the benefits that implementing the PREPARE guidelines can bring in the context of their own work. • advise others on how to use the PREPARE checklist and website to plan future research activities
Pre-requisites /pre-work	Attendees should watch the 3-minute animated film introducing PREPARE and ensure that they have access to the PREPARE website (norecopa.no/prepare).
Course provider Course Tutors	Responsible Research in Practice Dr Nikki Osborne and Prof Adrian Smith.
Max no. of attendees	20 (for 'live' courses).