

General Risk Assessment Form

RA1

University of Cambridge, general risk assessment form

SCoPE teaching toolkit – ‘Exploring Epigenetics – Part 2, Modelling Gene Regulation’

The Gurdon Institute have provided instructions for a classroom activity involving the use of sweets and arts and crafts materials to construct models of gene regulation.

Updated 23/01/2019

List the significant hazard(s). ¹	Describe what could go wrong – that is, say who might be hurt and how. ²	Is the risk high, medium or low? ³	Please list the existing and/or intended control measures which will reduce the likelihood of all this happening. ⁴	Suggest here any further actions which may be beneficial. Say who will carry them out and by when.
Food allergy	Students or teachers could develop a food allergy if they decide to eat the sweets. A severe allergic reactions could result from just touching the sweets.	Low	The teacher should be aware of any food allergies amongst his/her students. Teachers should assess whether or not the activity is safe for their particular students.	There is a note about the teacher considering the risks in the teacher’s instructions for the activity.
Kebab skewers	Students or teachers could puncture skin or other tissue with the kebab skewers.	Low	Teachers should assess whether or not the activity is safe for their particular students.	There is a note about this in the teacher’s PDF instructions.

Important! It is essential to check regularly that control measures specified in this risk assessment document are actually being used in practice. Any specialist emergency or first aid procedures should be specified here.

If any Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is required, please specify it here or attach it to this form. Any specialist training required should also be specified here.	
Is special monitoring (e.g. hearing test, eye test, health surveillance) required? If so, please enter details and also contact the University Occupational Health Service.	What personal protective equipment (PPE) is required (e.g. overalls, gloves, respiratory protection, eye protection)? You must ensure that any PPE specified is suitable for the purpose. Some activities require PPE, see activity RA

Please complete this section to confirm that this constitutes a suitable and sufficient assessment of risk.

Name of assessor:	Signature:	Date:	Name of supervisor:	Signature:	Date:
Helene Doerflinger	Helene Doerflinger	23 Jan 2020			

This assessment should be reviewed regularly (usually every 12 months), or earlier if there is a material change to the process, the equipment, location or relevant safety technologies. It should also be reviewed when new people are involved, or after an accident or incident has taken place.

Reviewed by (name)	Signature	Date	Indicate changes here ⁵

¹ A list of hazards is provided below to help you, but this may not be exhaustive. If any of these hazards can be eliminated altogether, or can be reduced at source by making an inherent change then we must consider doing so. Hazards in **bold** will also need an additional, more technical assessment on a specialist form - please ask your Departmental Safety Officer or the University Safety Office for further advice.

High or low temperatures	High pressures	Chemical hazards	Biological hazards	Genetically Modified Organisms	
Ionising radiations	Lasers	Sharp objects	Dusts	Work at heights	Animal houses
Magnetic fields	Machinery hazards	Electricity	Manual Handling	Noise	Vibration
Falling objects	Collapsing structures	Flooding	Slips, trips and falls	Asphyxiant gases	Flammable gases

² Please explain how an accident, incident or health condition could arise. We must consider all events which are *reasonably foreseeable*.

³ Please see the health and safety risk assessment handbook for further guidance on levels of risk.

⁴ When deciding on suitable control measures, you should ensure that you are complying with all relevant University policy and guidance documents, and that you have considered the hierarchy of control measures. In order to comply with legislation, we must also take all steps which are 'reasonably practicable' to reduce risk. This means that we should take all steps which are (in terms of time, cost and trouble) reasonable in relation to the reduction of risk achieved.

⁵ If changes are extensive, you will need to complete a whole new form, or attach a written amendment. If there are no changes say so.