

Research Design Service



Our advice is free and confidential and we provide support for health and social care researchers on all aspects of developing a grant application including, research design, research methods, identifying funding sources and involving patients and the public.

'Support from the Research Design Service team has been invaluable in guiding us through the complexities of the application process. The blend of structured meetings and one-to-one support was very helpful. The team also had excellent contacts with relevant expertise that could support our proposal.'

Consultant Clinical Psychologist

In an increasingly competitive research environment, securing funding to conduct health and social care research can be difficult and time consuming. The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Research Design Service provides expert advice and support to researchers developing research funding applications.

How we can help

We could help your team with:

- designing a research study
- research methods (qualitative and quantitative)
- identifying suitable sources of funding
- involving patients and public in research design
- identifying potential academic, clinical and lay collaborators
- identifying and refining the research question
- medical statistics
- health economics
- advice on common pitfalls
- interpreting feedback from funding panels.



Who we can help

We can help you if you are:

- developing grant applications for applied health or social care research
- applying for personal fellowships
- writing applications to national, open, peer-reviewed funding streams.

We support a broad range of people, including:

- doctors, nurses and allied health professionals
- patients and service users
- academics and NHS and social care managers.

Our priority is to support applications to NIHR research funding streams. We also support applications to Research Councils and other open, national, peer-reviewed funding programmes.

Why choose us

Expertise

Our research advisers offer a unique breadth of expertise and a proven track record in improving research applications.

Collaboration

We can help you to identify possible gaps in your research team and collaborators who can add value to your research, including health and social care clinicians, policy makers, academic researchers and patients and the public.

Tailored support

We can offer support tailored to the needs of your research team. Advice is available at face-to-face meetings, by telephone or email, at research clinics or as feedback from panel review meetings.

When to contact us

To make the most of the RDS, you should contact us as early as possible.



How to contact us

The national RDS network operates from 10 regional centres across England:



RDS East of England

Email: rds.eoe@nhr.ac.uk
Tel: 01206 874856

RDS East Midlands

Email: rds.em@nhr.ac.uk
Tel: 0116 252 3276
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RDS London

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