



Research funder requirements for science and engineering

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Requirements to manage research data

Priority: making research data available to users.



Code of Good Research Conduct (2009): Data should be preserved and accessible for 10 years+

RCUK Common Principles on Data Policy (2011):
<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/datapolicy/>

Which funders are RCUK?

AHRC, **BBSRC***, ESRC, **EPSRC***, MRC, **NERC***, **STFC***

RCUK Common Principles in brief

1. Make data openly available where possible
2. Have policies & plans. Preserve data of long-term value
3. Metadata for discovery / reuse. Link to data from publications
4. Handle legal, ethical and commercial constraints
5. Allow limited embargoes to protect the effort of creators
6. Acknowledge sources, recognise IP through citation and abide by T&Cs / licences.
7. Ensure cost-effective use of public funds for RDM

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/Pages/DataPolicy.aspx>

What the BBSRC requires

Policy:

<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Policies/data-sharing-policy.pdf>

Highlights:

- Kept for 10 years after completion of a research project
- RD released no later than publication of main findings (but in line with best practice)
- Need DMP for all research proposals.
- Adherence to DMP monitored through final report assessment
- Reserves right to require data sharing for a particular project

What the EPSRC requires

Policy:

<http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/about/standards/researchdata/Pages/policyframework.aspx>

Highlights:

- Institutional roadmap by 5/2012; compliance by 5/2015.
- Data kept for 10 years after creator-only access or last request for access
- Non digital RD to be stored in a shareable way
- DMP not required as part of application but DMP creation and use is expected
- Appropriate descriptive metadata made available freely online
- 'Robust DOI' for digital datasets

What NERC requires

Policy:

<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/sites/data/policy/>

Highlights:

- Data must be openly available within 2 years of collection and deposited in NERC data centre
- Applications need outline DMP
- Applications **MUST** stipulate funding required for RDM (as described by DMP)
- Only restrictions on access are those supported by exceptions on disclosure in the EIR 2004.

What STFC requires

Policy: <https://www.stfc.ac.uk/1386.aspx>

Highlights:

- Data available within 6 months of publication, with sufficient metadata
- Original data retained min. 10 years after project end.
- For data that cannot be re-measured, 'in perpetuity'
- DMP required with proposal, covering all data
- DMP considered in assessment of overall bid.
- Expect data to be managed via repository or relevant database / datacentre – where this is not the plan, DMP to provide fuller information.

DCC resources: Research funder policies table

Research Funders	Policy Coverage		Policy Stipulations					Support Provided			
	Published outputs	Data	Time limits	Data plan	Access/sharing	Long-term curation	Monitoring	Guidance	Repository	Data centre	Costs
AHRC	●	●	●	●	●	◐	○	●	○	◐	○
BBSRC	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	◐	●
CRUK	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	◐	●	○	○
EPSRC	●	●	●	◐	●	●	●	◐	○	○	●
ESRC	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	◐
MRC	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	◐	●	○	◐
NERC	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	◐
STFC	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	◐	●	◐	○
Wellcome Trust	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	◐	●

www.dcc.ac.uk/resources/policy-and-legal/overview-funders-data-policies

DCC resources: Overview of each funder's policy

BBSRC

BBSRC has released a [statement](#) on access to published research outputs, as well as an extensive [Data Sharing Policy](#), which came into effect in April 2007. The [Statement on Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice](#) acts as an overarching framework for these policies.

POLICY STIPULATIONS

Time Limits

The BBSRC states that publications should be deposited at the earliest opportunity and expects data to be made available in a timely and responsible manner. Specific scientific areas have established best practice for release of data as noted in the BBSRC Data Sharing Policy. Timely release would otherwise be considered as no later than the release of main findings through publication, or three years as a general guide. Data should be maintained for 10 years after project completion.

Data Plan

Researchers are required to submit a data sharing plan as part of the proposal. This may include details of: data areas, types and formats; standards and metadata; secondary use; methods for data sharing; and timeframes for release. Guidance on what to include is available under 'Data Sharing Plans' on p7 of the [BBSRC Data Sharing Policy](#).

Access/Data Sharing

The BBSRC encourages data sharing in all research areas where there is strong scientific need and where it is cost effective. The Council encourages

DMP Online



The beta version of the DMP Online tool launched in March 2010 and was showcased at the JISC Conference in April. The DCC's data management planning tool draws on funders' data-related requirements to help researchers create, develop and export customisable data management plans at the grant application stage and throughout the project's lifetime.

[Read more](#)

- Links to data & publications policies
- Summary of main stipulations
- Pointers to support

www.dcc.ac.uk/resources/policy-and-legal/funders-data-policies

In this section

[Curation Reference Manual](#)

[Curation Lifecycle Model](#)

Policy and Legal

[Overview of Funders' Data Policies](#)

Funders' Data Policies

[AHRC](#)

► [BBSRC](#)

[EPSRC](#)

[ESRC](#)

[MRC](#)

[NERC](#)

[STFC](#)

[Wellcome Trust](#)

[Policy Tools and Guidance](#)

[Freedom of Information](#)

[FAQs](#)

[MRC Data Plan FAQs](#)

[Open Source FAQs](#)

[Data Management Plans](#)

[Case Studies](#)

[Tools and Applications](#)

[Briefing Papers](#)

[How-to Guides](#)

Five common themes in DMPs

1. Provide a description of the data (type, format, volume)
2. Explain how the data will be collected & documented
3. Outline the plans for data sharing
4. Justify any restrictions on sharing (ethics, IP)
5. State the long-term preservation plan

See DMP Online for more help with creating your DMP:

<https://dmponline.dcc.ac.uk/>

Generally, funders expect:

- timely release of data
 - once patents are filed or on (acceptance for) publication
- open data sharing
 - minimal or no restrictions if possible. Any restrictions well-justified.
- preservation of data
 - typically 5-10+ years for data of long-term value
- data management plans
 - created, used (and sometimes submitted!)

Thanks for your attention

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For DCC guidance, tools and case studies see:

www.dcc.ac.uk/resources

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