

Quick Quiz – Funder Requirements for Research Data Management / Sharing

1. How long do RCUK funders typically expect research data of long-term value to be preserved?
 - a) 10+ years
 - b) In perpetuity
 - c) 5 years
2. Which RCUK funders expect researchers to submit data management and sharing plans as part of their grant application?
 - a) All of them
 - b) None of them
 - c) Some of them
3. When are researchers in receipt of RCUK grants expected to make their data available?
 - a) As soon as possible, typically on publication of results
 - b) Within 3 years of the end of the award
 - c) It's up to the researcher to decide
 - d) Never
4. Will RCUK funders consider withholding the final grant payment if data are not offered for deposit at designated data centres?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
5. Will RCUK funders provide additional funds to cover the costs associated with data management and sharing?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No

Answers

Question 1

- a) Correct! Most funders expect data to be preserved for 10 years, or longer if it has particular significance.
- b) Wrong answer. Only STFC asks organisations to retain data which can not be re-measured 'in perpetuity'. And the EPSRC requirement can in effect mean keeping data forever, if there are regular access requests. However, most funders state 10 years as a reasonable minimum period.
- c) Wrong answer. Only Cancer Research UK notes a minimum period of 5 years. Typically funders expect data to be preserved for 10 years or more.

Question 2

- a) Wrong answer.
- b) Wrong answer.
- c) Correct answer. The majority of RCUK funders now expect a data management plan at the grant application stage. BBSRC has asked researchers to submit data sharing plans since 2007. STFC introduced a requirement for data management plans in 2011. EPSRC does not ask for DMPs to be submitted in grant applications but expects that one will exist locally.

Question 3 – trick question, as all are technically correct

- a) Correct - Research funders typically expect data to be available as soon as possible.
- b) Correct - Embargo periods are allowed and should be based on common practice for the particular discipline. This may mean that data can't be shared for a number of years, however researchers should endeavour to share as soon as possible.
- c) Correct - researchers need to determine whether their data can be shared as this may not be possible due to legal or ethical reasons. However, where data can be shared, they should be made available as soon as possible.
- d) Correct - Most funders have expectations for some data to be shared unless there are very clearly defined reasons that this is not possible. These should be made explicit at the grant application stage to avoid problems toward the end of the project.

Question 4

- a) Correct answer. In cases where funders sponsor a data centre, researchers are required to offer selected research outputs for deposit as part of the condition of funding. Final grant payment can be withheld if this does not happen. But note that funders do not require all data produced in the project – just selected outputs.
- b) Wrong answer.

Question 5

- a) Correct answer. RCUK funders have signed up to the RCUK Common Principles on Data Policy, which say it is appropriate to use public funds to support the management and sharing of publicly funded research data. However, the costs need to be very explicitly described and justified in the bid. ESRC will review any costs associated with implementing the data plan as an integral part of the funding decision, and based on this decision, provide appropriate funding for data management. At the moment, the only UK funder who explicitly will not fund RDM and data sharing are CRUK as they consider timely and appropriate data management and sharing an integral component of the research process, so will not provide additional funds for these activities.
- b) Wrong answer.