

RCUK Expectations for Societal and Economic Impact

The Research Councils give their funding recipients considerable **flexibility** and **autonomy** in the delivery of their research, postgraduate training and knowledge transfer activities. This flexibility and autonomy encompasses project definition, management, collaboration, participation, promotion and the dissemination of research outputs; this approach enables excellence with impact.

In return, the Research Councils expect those who receive funding to:

- demonstrate an awareness of the wider environment and context in which their research takes place
- demonstrate an awareness of the social and ethical implications of their research, beyond usual research conduct considerations, and take account of public attitudes towards those issues
- engage actively with the public at both the local and national levels about their research and its broader implications
- identify potential benefits and beneficiaries from the outset, and through the full life cycle of the project(s)
- maintain professional networks that extend beyond their own discipline and research community
- publish results widely – considering the academics, user and public audiences for research outcomes
- exploit results where appropriate, in order to secure social and economic return to the UK
- manage collaborations professionally, in order to secure maximum impact without restricting the future progression of research
- ensure that research staff and students develop research, vocational and entrepreneurial skills that are matched to the demands of their future career paths
- take responsibility for the curation, management and exploitation of data for future use
- work in partnership with the Research Councils for the benefit of the UK

Further information:

- [Terms and Conditions of Research Council fEC Grants](#)
- [A Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers](#)
- [Code of Practice for the Assurance of Academic Quality and Standards in Higher Education](#)
- [The European Charter for Researchers](#)
- [Research Councils UK Science in Society Strategy](#)
- [Research Councils UK Science in Society web pages](#)
- [Managing Intellectual Property Guide](#)