Calculate data management costs

Costs associated with the capture, management, archiving, and sharing of research data should be considered at the earliest opportunity, ideally when preparing the research bid, so suitable arrangements can be made.

Research funder policy on data management costs

Many research funders allow data-related costs to be claimed for research, but it is less common for charities, interest groups, and other small organisations. It is advisable to check guidelines on allowed costs prior to producing the study budget.

- The research bid should be sufficiently descriptive to enable the reviewer to understand where and when costs will be incurred, how they have been calculated, and the reason that they're necessary.

- Data-related costs should be processed during the study funding period, where possible. If activities or services are needed for the post-project phase, ensure invoices are paid before grant closure or arrangements made to retain funds.

- Expenditure must not be 'double funded' as a direct cost and indirect cost.

Review the guidance for your chosen funder and funding call to determine conditions.

Potential costs

Data-related costs that you may wish to consider include:
- Acquisition costs, e.g. to arrange access to a secondary dataset
- Staff time for data cleaning, anonymisation, redaction, documentation, etc.
- Hardware and software purchase/licensing costs
- Training costs
- Technical services, e.g. cloud storage, server maintenance, domain hosting, etc.

LSHTM support

- Guidance on RDM costs are available on LSHTM's Research Data Management pages.
- Staff/student training on data management costing are delivered via the LSHTM Doctoral Transferable Skills and Talent and Education Development (TED) programme.

Book an appointment

For advice on data management and sharing costs that apply to your research study, contact the LSHTM Research Data Manager at researchdatamanagement@lshtm.ac.uk.