

# How the NIHR Research Design Service (RDS) can help you with your NIHR funding application

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@NIHR\_RDS



# NIHR Research Design Service

Provides advice on research design to researchers to develop high quality research proposals for national, peer-reviewed funding competitions for applied health or social care research.



## Example of funders where we can advise

- National Institute for Health Research.
- Medical Research Council.
- Economic and Social Research Council.
- Charities.



Funding needs to be national and peer reviewed.  
Research needs to be in applied health or social care.

# Our expertise

- Methodology including but not limited to:
  - quantitative, including statistical
  - qualitative
  - mixed methods
  - health economics
  - health psychology and behaviour change
  - specialist methodologies.
- Specific funding programme application advice.



More examples can be found at [www.rds-nw.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/expertise-a-z](http://www.rds-nw.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/expertise-a-z)

## We can also help with

- Identifying appropriate funding.
- Finding collaborators and building an appropriate team.
- Involving the public.
- Formulating the research question.
- “Grantsmanship.”
- Signposting to specialised support.
- Ethical and governance issues.
- Getting the narrative right.
- A critical read of your proposal.
- And much more.

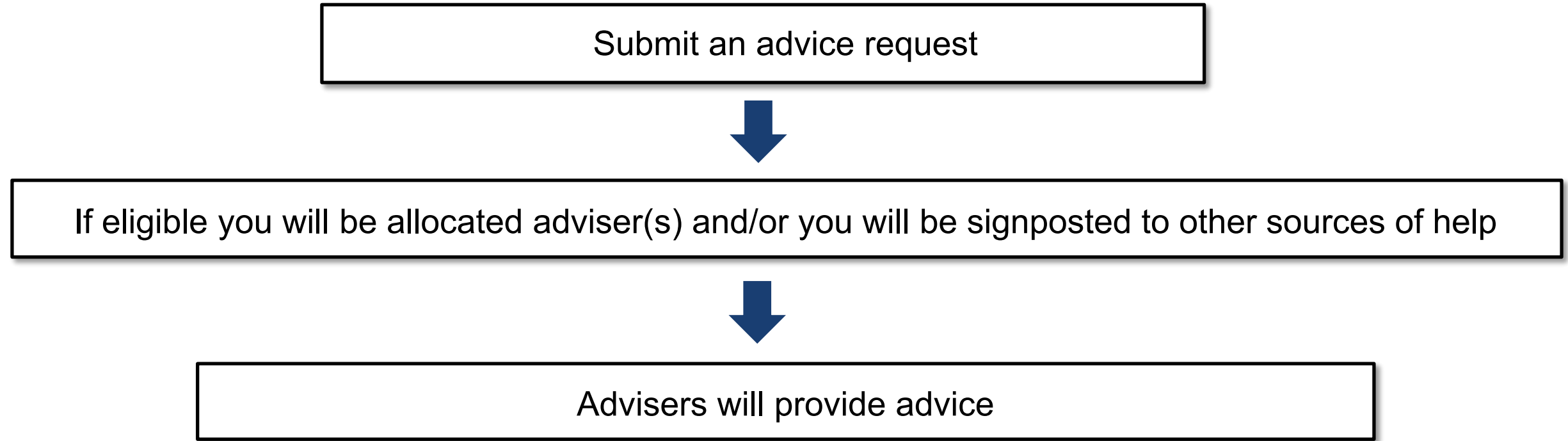


## Some of the other things we do

- Proposal development events.
- Pre-submission panels - open to clients.
- Public Involvement Fund – open to clients.
- Newsletters
- E-bulletin.
- Videos.
- Self-help resources
- And much more.



# What happens when you contact us



Depending on your requirements, you will be advised face-to-face via email, video conference or telephone.

# What we cover in your initial advice meeting

Depending on your needs we may cover:

- expectations
- importance of the question
- existing research / literature review
- potential funding streams
- study design
- feasibility of recruitment strategy
- track record of team
- Public Involvement.





# The RDS

- Researchers who use the RDS are highly satisfied with the service and say their needs are fully met or exceeded.\*
- Research teams who use the RDS believe their applications improve considerably following RDS support.\*
- Researchers who use the RDS say they would recommend the service to others.\*

\*An independent survey found that RDS users were satisfied with RDS support and that their expectations had been either 'fully met' (56%) or 'exceeded' (23%). 87% reported a high level of improvement in their research applications, with similar ratings for those who self-categorised as "just starting", "developing", or "experienced" in research or as having "substantial experience". More than 90% were likely to recommend the RDS to their colleagues.

# The RDS

Research teams supported by the RDS are awarded more than **£240 million** each year to deliver their research.\*

\*Data collected across the ten RDS regions in 2021 showed that the Service supports over 3100 research teams each year and that the average yearly value of successful applications is more than £243 million.

# Contact Us

RDS regional contact details:

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/support/research-design-service.htm>

RDS North West: [rds-nw@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:rds-nw@lancaster.ac.uk)

