

What to do with your research idea

What is your idea?

If you're unsure of whether your idea is classed as research, or if it's audit or evaluation (and often the distinction can be a bit blurry), then you can use [this tool](#) to help you decide.

If your research project is in England and involves the NHS you now need to apply for [Health Research Authority](#) approval. It's a new process so there are questions and answers available [here](#).

Is your idea original?

Sometimes it's useful to know what other work has been done in the area you're interested in, and the library can carry out literature searches for you to help with this. Don't panic if research has already taken place—it may be poor quality or you may have a new aspect to focus on. Our [request forms are online](#).

Formulating a question

Your research question is the most important part of the whole process, so it's essential you get it right!

The Research Design Service in London has a [great hand-out](#) on formulating a question, and give you some acronyms to use when thinking about structuring your question.

PICO was the example we used in this session, and it pays to think about what your outcome measure will be. There may be lots of different options, but if you're not specific about what you're measuring, then you'll struggle to formulate an answerable question.



Feasibility

“Will it work?” “Can it be done?”

Both very good questions, but real feasibility can and should focus deeper on practicalities. There's some good guidance from the National Institute for Health Research [here](#). You may also find Feasibility Tool from the Research and Innovation department useful—we've put a copy on to the FARRIL Moodle.

Important things to think about— will you have enough participants, what kind of timescale do you need, is there any special equipment, are there additional requirements to standard care, what are the staffing implications, is the knowledge you generate going to be transferable?

Facilitating research amongst radiographers through **Information Literacy workshops**

Funding

College of Radiographers Industry Partnership Scheme (CoRIPS) Research Grants fund 'projects related to any aspect of the science and practice of radiography' and aim to support 'at least one grant for someone who has little or no previous experience of undertaking research and development projects.' The most recent deadline has been and gone (it was the 3rd of October) but they are awarded twice a year, so the closing date for the next lot of applications is the 28th of April 2017. You can read more about them [here](#), including examples of successful bids, which is very useful!

The Radiological Research Trust offers grants of up to £5k, their current deadline is the 1st of December 2016 and you can find out more [here](#).

There are smaller, more specific pots of funding available, like the one from the [Gastro intestinal Radiographers Special Interest Group](#). Industry partners and charities can also be good sources of funding, depending on the topic of your proposed research. It's also worth keeping an eye out for bursaries from professional organisations for conference attendance. However, if you are presenting at a conference then the Trust may well be able to help support your costs.

Methods

How do you get the right methods for the right question to ensure you get an answer? The Research Development Group (RDG) is a new collaboration between the Trust, UCLan and the Lay Research Advisory Group and is here to help, advise and signpost wherever you are on the research pathway. Check the FARRIL moodle for more information.

Ethics

The ethical process is often the one that scares most would be researchers.

Remember, it is about protecting participants but also you as a researcher and is worth taking the time to get right.

Get ahead of the game register for an Integrated Research Application System, (IRAS) [account](#) and take a look.

No project? No problem!

If you want to engage with research but the thought of a project is overwhelming, then there are smaller things you can start with.

- Take an audit you've done and turn it into a poster for a conference
- Prepare a presentation for your department on a change you've made or a service development
- Take a problem or an area for review, have a look at the literature, draw up some recommendations and implement the evidence. A great team activity!

Next steps

- **Planning your research project** is on Tues 25th Oct, 09:00-10:00, Seminar room 3, EC1
Fri 28th of Oct, 12:00-13:00, Seminar room 6, Education Centre 1
- Take an idea you have and formulate a question from it
- Follow our Twitter account, [@FacResRad](#)

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