Writing a Data Management Plan (DMP) for WELLCOME

Context

Wellcome has long been at the forefront of moves to make research data more openly available. It uses the term ‘outputs’ to refer to underlying data such as datasets, software, new materials created, and intellectual property. It expects the researchers it funds to manage these research outputs ‘in a way that will achieve the greatest health benefit. This may involve making outputs widely available or using intellectual property (IP) as a tool to help protect and commercialise an original idea, product or technology.’

Two key documents detail Wellcome’s policy to managing research ‘outputs’ (as defined above).

- Data, software and materials management and sharing policy
- Policy on intellectual property https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/guidance/policy-intellectual-property

Does the funder require a DMP/OMP?

- Wellcome refers to this as an ‘Outputs Management Plan’ (OMP).
- An OMP is required at application stage, for any proposed research that ‘is likely to create significant research outputs that are of value to other researchers and users.’
- This is defined in Wellcome’s website on how to complete an OMP
  https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/guidance/how-complete-outputs-management-plan
- Grant holders are expected to review their OMP regularly throughout the research lifecycle.

What to include in your DMP/OMP

- Detailed guidance on what to include in an OMP can be found on the Wellcome website at
  https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/guidance/how-complete-outputs-management-plan
- A Wellcome OMP template, including guidance, is available at DMPOne
  https://dmponline.dcc.ac.uk/
What costs can be included?

- Wellcome says it will fund ‘any justified costs for delivering the plan as part of funding the research.’
- It is therefore important to think about what costs you will need covering for data management during the life of the project, and to include these costs in your application.
- Suggestions for costs that you might include in your application are outlined in the OMP Guidance [https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/guidance/how-complete-outputs-management-plan](https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/guidance/how-complete-outputs-management-plan).
- Normally, Wellcome will only fund direct costs, not overheads (as outlined in its Overheads Policy [https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/guidance/overheads-policy](https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/guidance/overheads-policy)).

What weight is given to data management by the funder?

- The bodies and individuals that review applications at each stage are required to take account of ‘the full and diverse range of outputs that results from research’ and ‘efforts made by researchers to use outputs to deliver health benefits or assist further research’.
- Wellcome also looks at whether researchers have managed and shared their research outputs in line with the requirements, as a critical part of the end-of-grant reporting process.

Does the funder stipulate a data repository and/or time scale for deposit of data?

- Wellcome requires grant holders to deposit their data in ‘recognised community repositories’, where these are available.
- A ‘non-exhaustive’ list of suggested repositories is provided by Wellcome Open Research (Wellcome’s Open Access publishing arm) at [https://wellcomeopenresearch.org/for-authors/data-guidelines#hosting](https://wellcomeopenresearch.org/for-authors/data-guidelines#hosting).
- Please note, if there are no subject specific repositories appropriate for your data, DMU researchers can use DMU Figshare, rather than one of the ‘general data’ repositories.
- As a minimum, Wellcome expects the data underpinning publications to be made available to other researchers, with as few restrictions as possible, at the point of publication.
- Where research data relates to public health emergencies, researchers must share quality-assured interim and final data as rapidly and widely as possible, and in advance of journal publication.

DMU Support in DMP writing

Information and guidance available to DMU research staff is detailed on DMU Connect at [https://tinyurl.com/RDMSupport](https://tinyurl.com/RDMSupport).