Responsible science

Include in your research plan how you intend to address these areas:

🧪 **Research Ethics**

Ensures ethical standards and good scientific practices throughout the research process.

🌍 **Research Security**

Promotes international collaboration while managing geopolitical risks.

⚖️ **Equality & Non-Discrimination**

Emphasizes gender equality and fairness in research funding and ecosystems.

📖 **Open Science**

Advances open access to research data, results, and methods for transparency and reuse.

👩‍🔬 **Responsible Researcher Evaluation**

Uses fair, transparent, and expert-driven criteria in researcher assessments.

🌱 **Sustainable Development**

All activities aim to build a sustainable future, guided by a dedicated sustainability report.

More information: https://www.aka.fi/en/from-research-to-society/responsible-science/

Research Ethics

Research ethics ensures the credibility of scientific research and maintains public trust. It is a core part of responsible research conduct. Researchers applying for funding from the RCF must always describe the ethical issues related to their research.

Ethics review covers the entire research process, including:

- ✓ Research topics and methods

- ✓ Data handling

- ✓ Informed consent and anonymity

- ✓ Ethical permits and governance

Research ethics - Research Council of Finland

Responsibilities

- ❑ Researchers and teams are mainly responsible for following good scientific practices, but research unit leaders and organisations also share this responsibility

- ❑ Use of AI in applications must follow ethical and data protection standards.

Ethics in Funding Applications

- ❑ Ethical considerations must be clearly described in funding applications.

- ❑ Includes handling of personal data, use of animals, and dual-use technologies.

Applicable Guidelines

Researchers must follow (in addition to the relevant legislation):

- ❑ Finnish Code of Conduct for Research Integrity

- ❑ ALLEA's European Code of Conduct

Violations and Consequences

- ❑ Institutions must report confirmed violations.

- ❑ Funding is denied for applicants found guilty of misconduct within the past 3 years.

- ❑ Appeals may restore eligibility.

Research Security

Explains how applicants must assess and manage potential security risks in international research collaboration, especially regarding critical technologies, dual-use potential, and sensitive partnerships.

Research security - Research Council of Finland

What Applicants Must Do?

❖ **Include a self-assessment of research security** in the application. Self-assessment templates- Research Council of Finland

❖ If risks are identified, **prepare a risk management plan**.

❖ The self-assessment and risk plan must be **submitted as an appendix**.

❖ **Update the assessment** if risks change during the project.

Security risks do not automatically prevent funding, but must be transparently addressed.

Equality & Non-discrimination

Information how the **Research Council of Finland (RCF)** promotes **equality and non-discrimination** in its research funding and operations. It outlines expectations for applicants to support gender balance, inclusivity, and fair treatment, and describes RCF's policies, review practices, and development efforts.

Equality and non-discrimination - Research Council of Finland

❖ Information on how the project will promote equality and non-discrimination within itself or in society at large

❖ You can consider gender/other equality for instance when planning your research group and collaborations

Open Science

About how the **RCF** promotes and requires **open science** in its funding processes. It outlines expectations for applicants to ensure **open access to publications**, **transparent data management**, and **openness of research methods**. Open science is one of the key criteria in funding decisions and part of responsible research conduct.

Open science - Research Council of Finland

About the DMP process:

❖ DMP to be submitted within eight weeks of the positive funding decision

❖ DMP template: dmptuuli.fi (Haka-login)

❖ help available from the faculty's research data stewards and researchdata@oulu.fi

Your data stewards:

• Jane Chen, FBMM
• Jaana O. Liimatainen, Fmed
• Jarmo Pääkkönen, Fmed
• Antti Viklund, BCO

Application guidelines:

Open Access to Publications

❖ Applicants must include a **publication plan** in their application.

❖ The plan should follow RCF's **open access policies**.

❖ Open access is considered during **funding decisions**.

Data Management and Openness

Applicants must describe:

❖ What **research data** will be collected and used.

❖ How the data will be **managed**.

❖ How **open access** to data will be implemented.

Data Management Plan (DMP)

❖ A full DMP is **required only after funding is granted**.

❖ It must be submitted according to RCF's instructions.

The RCF requires open access according to Plan S definitions
(Plan S is an initiative for open-access science publishing)

Plan S information - Research Council of Finland

Responsible Researcher Evaluation

About the **Research Council of Finland's (RCF) principles for responsible researcher evaluation** in funding decisions. Funding is awarded through open competition and international peer review. The focus of the review of applications is on the research plan, but in RCF funding opportunities aimed specifically at individual researchers, researcher assessment is also key.

Responsible researcher evaluation - Research Council of Finland

Key Evaluation Factors

Scientific Quality

❖ Focus on the **content and quality** of the research plan and publications.

❖ Not based on journal metrics like impact factors or JUFO classifications.

Applicant's Competence

❖ Assessed through **diverse outputs** and roles in the research career.

Sustainable Development

RCF supports the **UN's Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** through its operations and funding.

Sustainable development - Research Council of Finland

Adopted by the UN in 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a global plan of action that directs sustainable development in all countries of the world. It contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals that countries should jointly achieve by 2030.

Agenda2030 | Sustainable Development

Sustainability and responsibility at the University of Oulu

University of Oulu is committed to promote the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through research and education.

More information:

Sustainability and responsibility | University of Oulu

(Also further information can be found in Patio.)