

Applications for access to foundation doctors for research projects and surveys

1. Any research project or survey involving access to Foundation Programme doctors (FDs) must be approved through the researcher's sponsoring organisation. The relevant approval(s) must be provided with the initial request to the foundation team.
2. Foundation schools, UK nations and UKFPO are not obliged to support or facilitate research requests. To help manage the ongoing burden of surveys and requests on foundation doctors, most requests are unlikely to be supported.
3. If the researcher wishes to contact or survey FDs
 - a. in a specific foundation school region, they should [contact the relevant foundation school team](#)
 - b. across England, they should [contact the UKFPO](#), who will pass it on to the key decision maker
 - c. across the UK, they should [contact the UKFPO](#).
4. Each region or nation has local discretion to contact FDs in their region or nation only.
5. The foundation school, England lead or UKFPO team will consider applications to ensure relevance to the foundation programme, non-duplication of research studies or surveys, and appropriate timing with regards to other foundation programme activities.
6. Researchers will be informed of the UKFPO's decision within 30 days of receipt of the study details and relevant governance approvals. Foundation school teams will manage this at their own discretion.
7. If approved by the UKFPO, a link to the research study will be circulated in the appropriate way, as agreed (for example, published on the UKFPO website, signposted in the UKFPO bulletin, emailed to FDs).
 - a. UKFPO will discuss the most appropriate approach with the researcher and decide whether the survey or study should be signposted to FDs or whether UKFPO endorsement and wider promotion are appropriate.
8. The UKFPO National Clinical Director reserves the right to distribute research studies or surveys to foundation schools UK-wide, where such a study has come from a partner organisation and they feel that there is significant strategic value to the study (this will be the exception rather than the norm).

Guidance on research governance in each of the four UK nations:

England: <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/research-governance>

Northern Ireland: Email quality.nimdt@hscni.net

Scotland: <https://hub.nes.digital/help-me-with/governance/research-governance/>

Wales: <https://healthandcareresearchwales.org/>