

What is the Research Lifecycle Programme?

The Research Lifecycle Programme (RLP) is a focused investment of more than £15m rolled out over five years which started in the 2018/19 academic year. Our goals are to uplift research support in the University, to help researchers be more productive and remove administrative and technological obstacles from their way.

In order to understand what needs to be done we categorised the problem into 3 component parts:

1. e-Infrastructure – Using the [EPSRC Definition](#)
2. Research Data Life Cycle – Using the [Jisc Definition](#)
3. Administration of Research that ensures we have a vibrant environment to foster research ideas and the ability to support researchers

Research and Support Community Consultation

We worked with the community to determine the changes that University employees wished to see. We gathered several hundred requirements from around 1,000 participants in one-to-one meetings, workshops and an online ThoughtExchange survey. We categorised, sifted and concentrated hundreds of requirements to manageable categories. The requirements were gathered into a series of options of change projects. The change projects were then consulted upon and those deemed fitting with the strategic, operational and culture of Manchester were selected and are being advanced.

Type of change and approach

These change projects are separate but interlinked, we categorise them into three domains:

e-Research Infrastructure projects

In this cluster we have projects to increase capacity and capabilities in High Performance Compute, High Throughput Compute, providing a cloud strategy and streamlining the purchasing of cloud services to ensure the best deal for researchers. In this cluster we make sure that we provide the infrastructure for the management of data, storage databases, secure environments, noSQL databases, linked and graph databases, and geospatial data. We will also be providing support for Edge Compute and helping researchers with high local compute requirements to establish proper local infrastructure.



Research Information projects

In these projects the first two years are dedicated to how we develop a service offering to manage restricted data. We also look at ways to provide the infrastructure, the tools and methods of working for researchers to network and increase their collaborations within and across disciplines. Later, our focus will be improving the ways we manage and curate our data in line with University and funder requirements.



Research Support Processes projects

Improving the processes we use to manage research support processes improving costing and managing research. Providing researchers with the capability to have better information regarding the way their project funds are managed. Professional development of support of research staff.