



## DiRAC Resource Allocation Committee

### Guidance Notes for Applications

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## 1 Introduction

DiRAC (Distributed Research utilizing Advanced Computing) is the STFC national HPC resource for the UK astronomy, cosmology, particle physics and nuclear physics communities. Information on the HPC services that DiRAC offers can be found at <http://dirac.ac.uk>.

This document explains the process for the allocation of time on the DiRAC facilities.

## 2 DiRAC Resource Allocation Committee

The DiRAC Resource Allocation Committee (RAC) was established to oversee the time allocation for DiRAC project proposals. The membership of the RAC is available at <https://dirac.ac.uk/resource-allocation-committee/>. To maximise the quality of the scientific output of DiRAC, the allocation of time for Thematic Projects and Short Projects will be determined via robust, transparent peer review. The RAC has two sub-panels, one for Particle Physics & Nuclear Theory and one for Astronomy & Cosmology, which will consider the proposals within their respective remits. A meeting of the RAC attended by representatives from both sub-panels will then determine the overall allocation of DiRAC time across the whole portfolio of proposals.

## 3 Closing dates for DiRAC RAC Calls for Proposals

The RAC will issue one call per year to apply for time on the DiRAC facility.

The closing dates for the submission of Thematic proposals, Short proposals and Software Engineering Support proposals are listed below.

Please note that all proposal types except Discretionary/Seedcorn must submit a Technical proposal form.

The deadline for proposal submissions to the 13<sup>th</sup> Call will be as follows:

- **Technical Case deadline: Tuesday 4th August 2020 17:00 UK time**
- **RSE Support deadline: Tuesday 4th August 2020 17:00 UK time**
- **Full (Scientific) proposal submission deadline: Thursday 1st October 2020 17:00 UK time**

**All RAC allocations will start on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.**

Discretionary / Seedcorn proposals can be submitted at any time and allocations can start at any time.

## 4 Enquiries

All Call application forms and documentation can be found on the DiRAC website:

<http://dirac.ac.uk>

Further enquiries should be directed as follows:

- RAC process and remit: STFC Swindon Office [DiRACRAC@stfc.ac.uk](mailto:DiRACRAC@stfc.ac.uk)
- Technical questions: [dirac-support@epcc.ed.ac.uk](mailto:dirac-support@epcc.ed.ac.uk)
- Direct allocations or discretionary requests: DiRAC Deputy Director and Project Scientist, Dr Clare Jenner: [c.jenner@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:c.jenner@ucl.ac.uk)

Enquiries received within 7 days of a closing date are not guaranteed to be responded to prior to the closing date.

## 5 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The long term strength of the UK research base depends on harnessing all the available talent and the Research Councils have together developed the ambitious [UK Research and Innovation Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan](#)

In line with the UK Research and Innovation Diversity Principles, STFC expects that equality and diversity is embedded at all levels and in all aspects of research practice. We are committed to supporting the research community in the diverse ways a research career can be built with our investments. This includes career breaks, support for people with caring responsibilities, flexible working and alternative working patterns. With this in mind, we welcome applications from academics who job share, have a part-time contract, need flexible working arrangements or those currently committed to other longer, large existing grants. Please see our [Equality and Diversity webpages](#)

## 6 Proposal Types

The categories of proposals considered by each RAC call are:

1. Short Projects
2. Thematic Projects
3. Research Software Engineer support (for requests of 3 months or more)

Discretionary/seedcorn proposals may be submitted at any time (see Section 5.3) below.

### 6.1 Short Projects

A Short Project is a self-contained research problem typically lasting 3-6 months, up to a maximum of 12 months. The category will include proposals intended to develop exploratory study by users new to HPC or to DiRAC.

### 6.2 Thematic Projects

A Thematic Project is a clearly defined research programme of outstanding scientific merit which requires significant HPC resources over a period longer than 12 months and up to 36 months duration. The proposed research should be world-leading, with the expectation of making step changes in knowledge through the use of DiRAC resources. Applicants must demonstrate a track record of the productive use of HPC. Thematic projects must be centered on a singular scientific theme, but can contain a small number of sub-project activities, and can span multiple Research Organisations/Institutes. They can consist of a number of institutions or groups working on a large project/activity.

Large projects with significantly disparate scientific themes are advised to submit separate applications. Applicants should consider the range of material contained within submissions as very large proposals can have a detrimental effect on the peer review system due to lack of detail and insufficient justification of resources, and the need for reviewer diversity. No single application may request more than 80% of the RAC available time on any individual machine. Requests above this will not be considered by the RAC.

### 6.3 Discretionary/Seedcorn Proposals

These are very small allocations of DiRAC resource (up to 100,000 x86 core hours or 1,000 GPU hours or 1,000 KNL node hours) for projects that fall into the following categories:

- Scientifically outstanding projects where DiRAC resources could enable a breakthrough to be made but where the impact of the research would be lost if the project were submitted according to the scheduled calls for proposals.
- Very small projects where the researcher is not already a member of an existing Short Project or Thematic Project.

Discretionary / Seedcorn applications cannot be used to uplift existing project activities. Proposals may be submitted at any time and should be sent directly to DiRAC: [dirac-support@epcc.ed.ac.uk](mailto:dirac-support@epcc.ed.ac.uk). Decisions are normally made within one week. Further information on how to submit a Seedcorn proposal can be found on the DiRAC website: <http://dirac.ac.uk/seedcorn/>.

#### 6.4 Research Software Engineering (RSE) Support

Applications can be made for support from the DiRAC Research Software Engineering (RSE) team to help improve and develop software for the DiRAC community. Applicants must complete the RSE request form and **should refer to the specific RSE guidance notes, available on the [DiRAC website](#)**. Applications for RSE support must be sent to [dirac-support@epcc.ed.ac.uk](mailto:dirac-support@epcc.ed.ac.uk) by **4<sup>th</sup> August 2020, 17:00 UK time**. Your application will be forwarded to a member of the DiRAC RSE team for technical evaluation. This will then be forwarded to the RAC for their consideration and applicants will be notified of the outcome following the RAC Main Panel meeting.

Examples of types of projects include, but are not limited to:

- The enablement of the scientific community to perform novel and previously untenable simulations;
- A quantifiable improvement in performance or scaling of a code;
- The integration of new algorithms/functionality into a code;
- Measurable outcomes leading to wider accessibility in the user community;
- Project outcomes of specific importance to the DiRAC community.
- Preparing codes for future UK Tier-1 systems, including improving maintainability and sustainability.

Applicants should note:

- RSE support is technical in nature and is not research support. In particular these resources are not meant to be a replacement for PDRA/Post-grad student activity. The construction of a piece of scientifically valid code is the project's responsibility and is not the role of RSE support.
- RSE support can only be requested for software which is relevant to existing projects which are currently running on DiRAC facilities, or for projects where computing time is requested in parallel with the RSE support.
- Resource requests and science goals in DiRAC computing time applications should not depend on progress or goals you aim to achieve with DiRAC RSE support.
- RSE support will be distributed according to ranking and availability by the RAC.
- A maximum of 5 FTE per annum is available in the DiRAC RSE team.

We expect applications to be for 3 to 12 months of effort in most cases, but longer applications will be considered at the discretion of the panel if they are fully justified. If you require shorter amounts of RSE time (e.g. to help profile or port an application), these are available to all funded DiRAC projects; please contact the DiRAC helpdesk: [dirac-support@epcc.ed.ac.uk](mailto:dirac-support@epcc.ed.ac.uk) with your request. (Note that RSE time is finite and we cannot guarantee to support every such request).

## 7 How to submit a proposal

Applications for Short and Thematic Projects all require a previously submitted technical case. Any received proposals will not be considered by the RAC unless a technical case has been completed. **Technical cases must be submitted by e-mail to**

[dirac-support@epcc.ed.ac.uk](mailto:dirac-support@epcc.ed.ac.uk) any time up to 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their technical case earlier to allow for more time to implement any feedback. Applicants may discuss their request with the RSE Team in advance of submitting a technical case by emailing DiRAC support and adding the heading “RAC 13 technical enquiry” into the subject of the email.

Applicants may also wish to read the information relating to [peer review and assessment](#).

Following the submission of the technical case, proposals will have to submit the following documentation by the closing date of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020:

1. Completed application form
2. Scientific case
3. Project Management case
4. Data Management Plan
5. Any letters of verification (non-mandatory, maximum of 3, if the work proposed is dependent on other scientific results or being part of a large collaboration)

### 7.1 Submission process

Proposal forms, including all of the documentation listed above, must be submitted by the closing dates specified above in Section 3 to the relevant contact. Applicants may wish to send their proposal via encrypted/secure email.

### 7.2 Principal Investigator

Each proposal must identify a Principal Investigator (PI) who has overall responsibility for the delivery of the proposed research and will act as the point of contact for all STFC, DiRAC and RAC communications. **Please note that the PI named on the technical case must be the same PI named on the scientific case.**

In line with STFC’s research grant conditions the PI must be either a) resident in the UK, or b) be employed by an overseas Research Organisation approved by STFC as eligible to apply for research grant funding. The STFC eligibility criteria can be found via this [link](#).

We welcome proposals that represent the UK’s contribution to an International Research Programme. However, it is expected the proposed research programme will enhance the UK’s research outputs. Applicants are invited to submit letters of verification if the work proposed is dependent on other scientific results or being part of a large collaboration. If any projects are heavily led by international collaborators full reasons for this must be provided in the case for support. If applicants are aware of any restrictions on their ability to acknowledge the use of DiRAC resources in their publications, for example because of rules,

within an international collaboration, they should indicate these in their proposal. (Note that this will not affect the assessment of the proposal, but will ensure that appropriate reporting mechanisms can be agreed with the PI if the proposal is successful).

Please note that if applicants hold an existing STFC Consolidated Grant this does not automatically guarantee that they will be allocated computing time on DiRAC facilities.

### 7.3 Discretionary/Seedcorn Proposals

Applicants should submit the application form together with a science case (maximum one page) direct to DiRAC, as per the instructions in section 5.3. The application should describe the work to be undertaken and explain the reasons for wishing to use DiRAC. Note that Discretionary/Seedcorn proposals may be submitted at any time and are not restricted to the call for proposal deadlines.

### 7.4 Thematic Projects and Short Projects

For the 13<sup>th</sup> RAC call, applicants should submit the application form together with a case for support and other documents listed above direct to STFC Programmes Directorate, [DiRACRAC@stfc.ac.uk](mailto:DiRACRAC@stfc.ac.uk) by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. Applicants may wish to send their proposal via encrypted/secure email.

The case for support must be a maximum of 13 pages for Thematic Projects, and a maximum of 9 pages for Short Projects, font size 11 point, and contain the following sections:

#### 1. Science justification and proposed research (maximum 10 pages Thematic Projects, 7 pages Short Projects)

This should describe the proposed research programme and explain why the applicants wish to use DiRAC. It should address the following assessment criteria listed below. For Thematic proposals, points 1-7 should be no longer than 9 pages and point 8 must be no longer than 1 page. For Short proposals, points 1-7 should be no longer than 6 pages and point 8 must be no longer than 1 page.

1. Significance of the proposed research goals with reference to the STFC Roadmap
2. Appropriateness of the proposed methods/codes
3. Justification of the requested resources
4. Justification for any research software engineering support requested
5. Suitability of the investigator(s) for the proposed research
6. Justification of any periods of machine use in exclusive mode
7. A prioritised list of the projects within the proposal
8. Clarification of the absolute minimum time required for the proposed work, including full reasons for needing all of the time requested, why the time requested is essential for the successful completion of the project, and the scientific impact of any cuts. (Please note that the page limit has been extended to allow one page for this information).
9. The technical case and scientific case should both provide information explaining how intensively the proposed code will be used, and how much of the allocated time will be used by this code. This should be addressed for all of the major codes that are listed. This information should be provided in the table within section 2.9 of the scientific proposal form.

#### 2. Project and Data Management (maximum 3 pages Thematic Projects, 2 pages Short Projects):

- The project management structure
- Data management plan (refer to section 11)
- Availability of sufficient researcher effort to carry out the proposed research (For Thematic Projects a table should be included showing the estimated effort, as a percentage, that the PI and each Co-I expect to contribute to the project)
- A description of the internal allocation process for the allocation of time to sub-projects (if applicable)
- A work plan, with milestones against which the progress of the project will be measured
- Publication plans
- Project risk and mitigation analysis (include compute/storage usage, staff and technical risks)

3. Relevant Publications produced via DiRAC resources over the last 3 years (short annex)

4. References (short annex)

## 8 General guidance for applicants

### **Important points to note:**

No single application may request for more than 80% of the available time on any individual machine.

Existing Thematic Projects wishing to apply for more computing time due to additional resources becoming available at DiRAC can submit using the following methods:

- Applications with scientific themes distinct from the existing award can be submitted as a separate proposal.
- Applications building on the same scientific theme as an existing award should apply as a new project, and this new award would then replace any existing compute award.

**PIs requesting for a revised or updated thematic project must justify this request fully; the RAC will take into account all currently active projects which are based on a comparable science case.**

Proposals should include the following:

- Proposals should be focused on scientifically coherent themes, but should contain sufficient technical and scientific detail. It should be noted that proposals with greater numbers of themes will generally result in poor coverage and potentially weaker reviews. In these cases it may be beneficial to submit multiple thematic requests.
- Proposals should include adequate detail to justify the requested allocation and should be written in a way that is accessible to the RAC panel, who may not be an expert in the given field (this especially applies to Thematic Projects proposals).
- Please note that the resources requested in the scientific case should match those requested in the technical case. If the request is to change by more than 20% (increase or decrease), this must be justified in the scientific case for support and STFC must be contacted directly to discuss this.

The DiRAC resources are divided into four allocation periods per year, starting 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1<sup>st</sup> October, and 1<sup>st</sup> January. Successful applicants will be advised of the total amount of resources they have been allocated and the periods within which the allocations must be used. Resources must be used in the allocation period to which they were

assigned; they cannot be carried over to the next allocation period. For Thematic awards the first year allocation will be fixed and subsequent years are subject to change by DiRAC. For Thematic Projects a uniform resource usage profile will be assumed unless the application states otherwise. Significant deviations from uniform profiles may be requested in Thematic Project proposals with adequate justification, but it is not guaranteed that they can be accommodated.

It is possible to request a delay to the start date of a project, this should be specified on the application form (start dates must be on the first day of a month).

## 9 Assessment Criteria

Proposals will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Scientific Excellence (Total weighting of 60%)

- Significance of the proposed research goals with reference to the STFC Roadmap
- Strategic value within the STFC programme
- National and international competitiveness and leadership
- Suitability and national/international standing of the investigator(s) for the proposed research

Project Management (weighting 10%) and Data Management (weighting 10%)

- Feasibility of project timeline given DiRAC resources requested and size of investigator team
- Project risk and mitigation analysis (include compute/storage usage, staff and technical risks)
- Publication plans
- Availability of sufficient researcher effort to carry out the proposed research
- Direct response to the [STFC Data Management policy](#) guidelines

Technical Assessment by DiRAC RSE Team (Total weighting 20%)

- Appropriateness of the proposed architecture/machine selection
- Justification for any research software engineering support requested
- Efficiency of resource usage and how well code(s) vectorise

RAC Additional Scoring considerations

- Alignment of the proposal with the call guidelines.
- Full and effective usage of previous DiRAC allocations. Reasons for any under usage of previous DiRAC allocations will be taken into consideration.
- Timely submission of interim and final reports of any previous DiRAC allocation (see section [12](#))

A score between 0 – 10 will be applied to the RAC additional scoring considerations. This will then form a percentage decrease in the overall score gained from the main criteria with a maximum of 20% decrease in score. For example, a score of 9 would produce a 2% reduction in the final score.

## 10 Assessment Process

### 10.1 Discretionary/Seedcorn Proposals

Discretionary and Seedcorn proposals can be submitted at any time. They will be reviewed by the chairs of the sub-panels; they will not be sent out to referees. Applicants will be notified of the outcome as soon as possible, usually within one week.



## 10.2 Thematic Projects and Short Projects

The relevant RAC Sub-Panel Chair will assign a RAC Sub-Panel member to act as primary introducer for each project proposal received. For Short Projects the primary introducer will initially contact four expert reviewers. For Thematic Projects the primary introducer will initially contact six expert reviewers, at least one of which should be a non-UK based reviewer. For both Short and Thematic Projects a member of the DiRAC RSE Team will be asked to provide a technical assessment of the proposal (as detailed above) and a score on the previously submitted technical case. Reviewers will only see the submitted documentation to the RAC (the scientific proposal form, case for support, data management plan, project management case, RSE request form, and letters of verification). **The technical assessment is solely completed by the DiRAC RSE Team and will not be sent to reviewers.**

Project PIs will be given an opportunity to respond in writing to referees' comments. It is strongly recommended that PIs make use of this opportunity. Each proposal will be considered at a meeting of the relevant Sub-Panel. At the meeting, the Sub-Panel will grade the proposal and the PI's response to the referee reports. At this meeting an overall ranked list of the proposals will be produced.

Following the Sub-Panel meetings, a meeting will be convened which will include selected members from each Sub-Panel. At this meeting the resources to be assigned to each proposal will be agreed. Applicants will be notified of the outcome for their proposal and provided with feedback as soon as possible after the RAC meeting.

## 11 Code Efficiency

The aim of the RAC process is to maximise the output of high quality research by the DiRAC facility. Scientific excellence will be the primary driver for allocation decisions and the RAC will balance 'time to science' against reasonable requirements on the operational efficiency of approved projects and simulation codes. It is recognised that the cutting-edge and novel nature of research across the DiRAC community means that many DiRAC codes are under active development and may not be as efficient or scalable as more mature codes. Further, results obtained in a timely manner with a sub-optimal code will often have greater impact than results delayed by extended periods of code optimisation work. However, while it is recognised that new HPC users, or users of new codes, may not have sufficient resources or experience to provide full details of code efficiency, applicants will be required to demonstrate that their operational plan is as efficient as possible and that the architecture requested is the most appropriate for the work.

In cases of similarly ranked proposals, applicants who demonstrate more efficient use of DiRAC resources either in terms of actual code efficiency or more efficient operational strategies will be given preference. Projects may request allocations of research software engineer effort to assist with code optimisation. The RAC may also allocate research software engineer effort to particular projects where concerns about efficiency have been raised.

Where scientific projects intend to migrate between architectures, RAC particularly encourage codes that have been well-optimised and scaled to larger project sizes than would have otherwise been attainable. A development queue will be available for those preparing proposals who want to demonstrate code efficiency. This queue will have strict limits on resource usage. Requests for access to this queue for new users will be dealt with by the Technical Working Group.

## Requesting Exclusive Use of a DiRAC machine:

Some Thematic Projects may include (or may consist entirely of) sub-projects which require usage of an entire DiRAC machine, or significant fraction of a machine, for a period of longer than two days. This mode of use must be explicitly justified in the proposal, and a detailed timeline for the sub-project must be included. The technical assessment of such sub-projects will include an assessment of the efficiency of machine use.

If the request is approved, a fixed start date for the sub-project exclusive usage will be agreed to enable re-scheduling of other users to other machines during the period of unavailability. Time lost due to failure to meet the approved start deadline will not be compensated.

No more than two DiRAC machines will be operating in this mode at any one time. Where this mode of operation directly impacts on another project (e.g. due to technical requirements which mean it cannot be moved to another machine) it may be necessary to sub-divide periods of exclusive use or reserve a fraction of the cores for other projects. In cases where multiple Project proposals with overlapping scientific goals are received, if appropriate the RAC may invite the applicants to consider merging their proposals.

## 12 Data Management Plan

Projects are required to complete a short data management plan for all types of proposals. The completion of this section is mandatory and will be marked against in the review of the project by the DiRAC RAC.

PIs are requested to address all points which are found in the STFC Data Management Plan (DMP) guidelines ([available here](#)). This includes: which communities may have potential interest in the data being produced by their DiRAC project; how and where the data from the project will be stored; how long the data will be stored and what metadata processes will be used.

Applicants are encouraged to consult the DMPs of any collaboration they are a part of and to discuss with their universities data management units.

## 13 Project Reporting

All projects (Thematic, Short and Seedcorn) will be required to submit reports at the end of the project describing facility usage, progress against objectives, achievements and publications. In addition Thematic Projects will be required to complete annual progress reports. Report templates will be provided.

The annual progress report for Thematic Projects will be assessed by the appropriate RAC sub-panel against the original peer-reviewed milestones. Confirmation of resource allocations to a Thematic Project in subsequent allocation periods will be conditional on the approval of their progress report. The report should include explicit justification for any significant deviations from the science proposed in the original work plan, and any delays should be accounted for. Thematic Projects which are deemed not to be progressing satisfactorily may have their allocations in subsequent allocation periods reduced and/or may be required to submit interim reports at six month intervals. The RAC may solicit expert referees' reports in cases where scientifically significant changes to the original milestones for a Thematic Project are proposed in the annual report.

Failure to submit a satisfactory project annual report or project final report will result in subsequent proposals from the group being marked down (see section 9).

## 14 Storage Policy

Quota - an amount of disk that you cannot exceed.

Allocation - an amount of disk that you are guaranteed to have access to.

/home - this will be small and have quotas applied of, say, 10GB. This is for storing code, key input files, etc. but is not a working space.

/scratch or /work - this is the main working area available to all compute nodes and is quota'd by having separate volumes/file systems, one per project. The amount of space allocated to scratch can be over-allocated, hence it is a quota rather than an allocation. It is left to the users to manage their data within the limits of the set quota. However, each DiRAC site reserves the right to sweep of files which have not been accessed for a given amount of time. This is at the discretion of each site.

/data (medium term) - this is for storing results awaiting final post processing or on which more work may be required prior to publication and transfer back to the user's own institution. These will be quota'd to reduce the risk of significant overutilisation. Sweeping will be used here as well, as it is not a permanent archive, but will be on a much longer access time, say 9 months.

Archive: This is tape storage. Applicants must specify what data products they wish to have backed up to tape. Note that DiRAC is not currently able to provide long-term data storage/curation.

Note that not all DiRAC sites have all categories of storage types described above available. DiRAC will endeavour to assign storage aligned to the categories requested but this may not be technically possible.

## Annex 1 RAC Scoring Matrix

Category	N/A	Unfundable	Not Competitive	Good	Excellent	Exceptional
Score	0	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10
Scientific Case	No Science Case submitted, or at an insufficient quality to be considered.	Science that is not novel, is of unsatisfactory quality, unrealistic objectives, is not timely and is unlikely to advance the field.	The science lacks novelty, is of low quality, not well thought through objectives and is not timely but could result in some useful knowledge.	The proposal is good quality science, which is of very good scientific merit in terms of novelty, quality, objectives, and timeliness and addresses important scientific questions.	The proposal is high quality science, which is of excellent scientific merit in terms of novelty, quality, objectives, and timeliness and addresses highly important scientific questions.	The proposed work meets exceptional scientific standards in terms of novelty, quality, objectives, and timeliness and addresses extremely important scientific questions.
	No Science Case submitted, or at an insufficient quality to be considered.	The research is unlikely to contribute to the understanding of the subject. Not a good match of research to the host group's scientific infrastructure and environment with no benefit to the group and no opportunity to develop new skills.	The research will make a marginal contribution to the understanding of the subject. Not a strong match of research to the host group's scientific infrastructure and environment with little benefit to the group and little opportunity to develop new skills.	The research is not likely to make a significant contribution to the understanding of the subject. Good match of research to the host group's scientific infrastructure and environment with some benefit to the group and the opportunity to develop some new skills .	The research is likely to make a significant contribution to the understanding of the subject. Excellent match of research to the host group's scientific infrastructure and environment with excellent benefit to the group and the opportunity to develop new skills.	The research is highly likely to make a significant contribution to the understanding of the subject. Exceptional match of research to the host group's scientific infrastructure and environment with exceptional benefit to the group and the opportunity to develop new skills.
	No resource requirements/requests or justification submitted, or at an insufficient quality to be considered.	Resource requirements/requests and justification are poorly defined, and cannot be assessed against the guidance criteria.	Resource requirements/requests and justification are not well defined, and cannot accurately be assessed on the guidance criteria.	Resource requirements/requests and justification are defined against the guidance criteria.	Resource requirements/requests and justification are well defined, and can accurately be assessed against the guidance criteria.	Resource requirements/requests and justification are clearly defined against the guidance criteria, and can easily be evaluated.
Management Case	No Project Management or Data Management Case submitted, or at an insufficient quality to be considered.	Plan does not address any of the STFC Project or Data Management frameworks.	Plans covers the minimal percentage the relevant aspects of the Project and Data Management Frameworks outlined by STFC.	Plans cover a large percentage the relevant aspects of the Project and Data Management Frameworks outlined by STFC.	Plans cover all the relevant aspects of the Project and Data Management Frameworks outlined by STFC.	Plans have exceptional coverage of the Project and Data Management frameworks outlined by STFC.
Overall	This research should not be considered	This research should not be supported.	This research should not be supported.	This research could be supported if funds are available.	This research should be supported.	This research programme should definitely be supported and it would be a loss not to do so.

## Annex 2 RAC Additional Scoring Considerations

The RAC will take into consideration the following additional criteria:

- Alignment of the proposal with the call guidelines.
- Full and effective usage of previous DiRAC allocations. Reasons for any under usage of previous DiRAC allocations will be taken into consideration.
- Timely submission of interim and final reports of any previous DiRAC allocation (see section [12](#))

A score between 0 – 10 will be applied to the RAC additional scoring considerations. This will then form a percentage decrease in the overall score gained from the main criteria with a maximum of 20% decrease in score. For example, a score of 9 would produce a 2% reduction in the final score.

Score	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10
<b>Alignment to call guidelines</b>	Unsatisfactory – deviates from guidelines significantly	Poor – some deviation from guidelines	Good – adheres to guidelines but not fully	Very good – mostly adheres to guidelines	Excellent – matches guidelines exactly
<b>Use of previous allocations</b>	Very poor - little or no usage	Poor usage	Good usage	Very good - used most of allocation	Excellent - used entire allocation
<b>Timely submission of reports</b>	Did not submit	Over 2 weeks late	1-2 weeks late	Less than 1 week late	On time (either in the first instance or after requesting extension)

All three of the criteria will be given equal weight to identify a RAC Additional Score.