Creating a strong application

A strong application for **linked data** is vital to get your project off the ground, and there's a variety of ways you can improve your application to get your linked data journey moving.

Invest time upfront

It's crucial that your application is well planned. This means having all required documents, a sound study design and secure data storage protocols early in the application process.

Research the application process before you start and be sure to speak with the relevant data linkage unit or units. Having a clear understanding of the different roles and responsibilities – including your own – will save time later.

Use plain language

Those reviewing your application might not be experts in your field, so use plain and simple language to accurately communicate your study goals, design and management plans.

Be as specific as possible

When requesting data, be specific and only request the data you need, to answer your research questions.

Ensure consistency

You'll need to submit numerous documents as part of your application, so make sure they're all consistent and up to date, as your data linkage unit will require the most recent versions of every document. Ensure you maintain good version control across the application process.

Data security is important

You'll need to have secure data storage arrangements and document these details in your application.

Maintain contact with your data linkage unit

Your data linkage unit is there to help, so engage with them early and often. They can guide you through the application and data linkage process, but they'll also have questions of their own, so it's important to maintain regular contact.

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