

Preparation for the first meeting with statistical consultant

In the first meeting the client will introduce the research project and their questions to the consultant.

In preparation for the first meeting with the statistical consultant it is helpful to consider the following questions and being ready to address them.

Regarding the research topic:

- What is the grant research question?
- What is the specific question that is being addressed in the current study?
- Which are the specific hypotheses?
- What is the stage of the research (planning, data collection, data analysis, publication)?

Regarding the data (if applicable):

- What has been/will be measured?
- How are the data recorded?
- How are the hypotheses reflected in the variables being measured?
- What is the sample size?
- Is there a preference for a certain statistical software (Minitab/SPSS/R)?

Sometimes it is helpful to bring the data or send it before the meeting.

Regarding the statistical issues the statistical consultant can help with

- What is the anticipated/required sample size?
- Design of the experiment (how to collect the data)
- What would an appropriate data description (graphs/tables) look like?
- What statistical tests should be conducted to address the research hypotheses?
- How to correct for confounding variables?
- How to deal with missing measurements?
- How to interpret results that have been created?
- How to present the results in a scientific publication/presentation?

Please have in mind:

- The consultant is not an area expert, but is happy to learn from the client about the background of the research
- Expect fundamental questions.
- Use layman terms as much as possible to explain the research.
- Do not hesitate to ask questions about everything that is being proposed.

At the end of the first meeting the next steps will be discussed including timelines, tasks for client and consultant, next meeting(s).

If you have any other questions prior to the first meeting, feel free to reach out. Your consultant is looking forward to working together on your project.