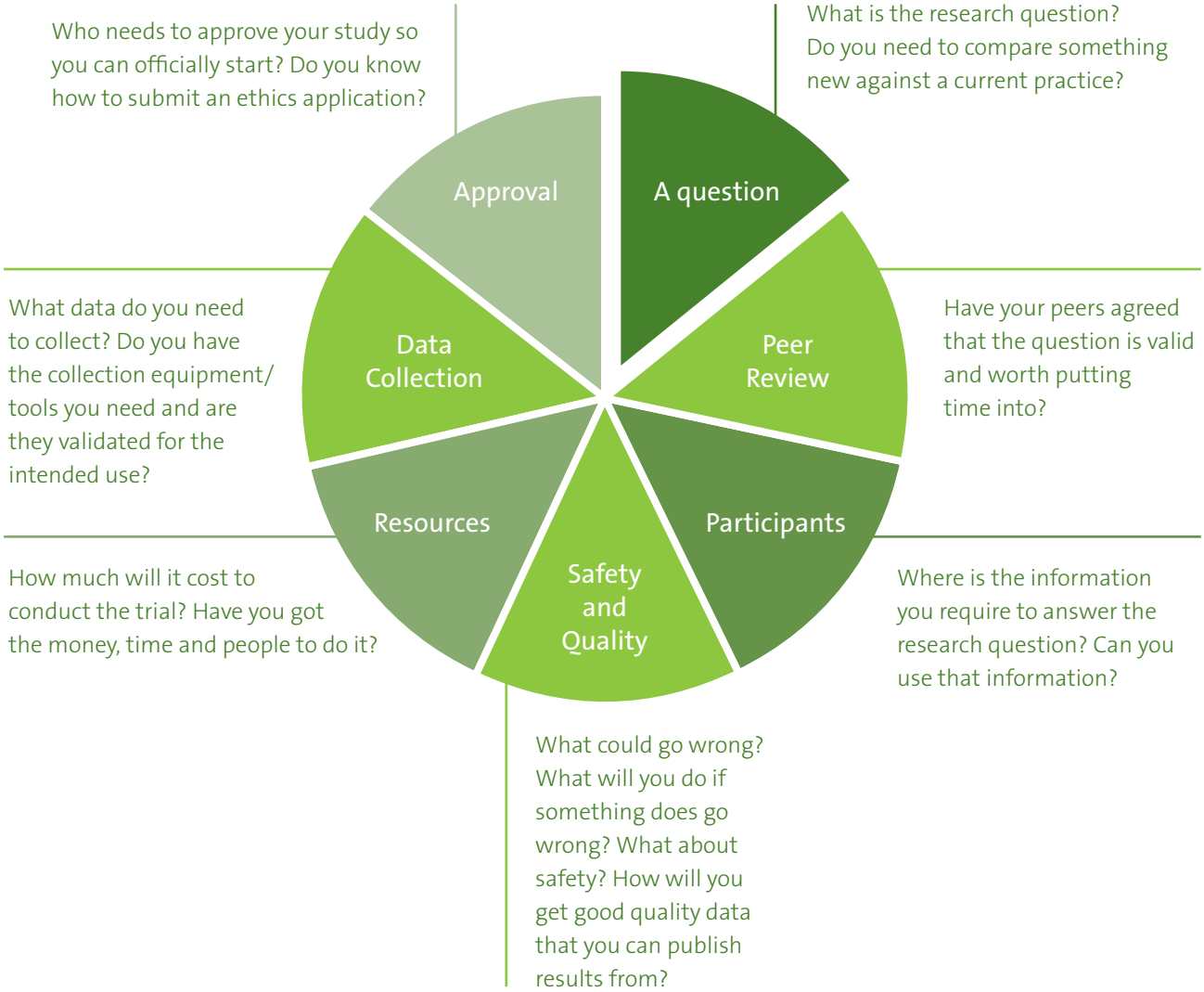Stage 1: Planning