

UK Biobank

Key contact details:

To discuss any aspect of the UK Biobank dataset and service you can contact the team via email at ukbiobank@ukbiobank.ac.uk. For specific data access queries, the Access team can be contacted via access@ukbiobank.ac.uk.

UK Biobank data dictionary:

UK Biobank is a large-scale biomedical database and research resource, containing in-depth genetic and health information from half a million UK participants. It is a major national and international health resource, and a registered charity in its own right, with the aim of improving prevention, diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of serious and life-threatening illnesses.

The dataset is regularly augmented with additional data and is globally accessible to approved researchers. A summary of all the information gathered and available for research via UK Biobank can be found in the [Data Showcase](#) tab.

Accessing UK Biobank data: Register – Apply – Manage

UK Biobank is an open access resource, accessible to bona fide scientists undertaking health-related research that is in the public good. Approved scientists from the UK and overseas and from academia, government, charity and commercial companies can apply to use the resource. The application process is completed entirely online via the [UK Biobank website](#).

Step 1.) Registration

All researchers wishing to access the resource must register with UK Biobank by completing a registration form via the online Access Management System (AMS). Researchers must provide evidence that they are a bona fide researcher at an appropriate institution and make an application detailing their proposed research. Registrations are reviewed within 10 working days.

You can find out more about the [registration process here](#).

Step 2.) Application

When reviewing applications UK Biobank will assess the following points –

- i. Whether the proposed researcher is likely to be approved and meets the required criteria, including legal and ethical standards.
- ii. Whether the amount of depletable sample required is scientifically justified.
- iii. The cost of providing such data and or samples.

The process of reviewing applications will be managed by the UK Biobank Coordinating Centre, conducting a set of standard checks and seeking advice on particular applications as required. Recommendations on each application will be made by the UK Biobank Principal Investigator and will be subject to confirmation by the UK Biobank's Access Sub-Committee.

On approval, an access fee request will be raised and the Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) will be issued. Following payment of the access fee and the returned signed MTA the Access team will release the approved requested data and notify you when it is available via the AMS.

Further [information on the application process can be found here](#).

Step 3.) Material Transfer Agreement (MTA)

For approved applications, the MTA will need to be executed and access charges paid before release of data and/or samples to the approved researcher.

Getting UK Biobank data (after approval):

Once an application is approved, the MTA will need to be completed and access charges paid. The requested data will then be ready for release from UK Biobank via the cloud-based Research Analysis Platform (RAP). The RAP enables greater access to data for a wide range of researchers, and means it can be accessed worldwide.

Further [information, guides and tutorials on RAP can be found here](#).

User access agreements:

If the research project is approved then UK Biobank will send its standard MTA to the applicant PI, along with request for payment of access charges. Researchers will enter a legal agreement with UK Biobank not to make any attempt to identify participants.

Cost of access:

Researchers will have to pay for access to the resource on a cost-recovery basis for their proposed research. There will be a fixed charge for initiating the application review process and a variable charge depending on how many samples, tests and/or data are required for the research project.

Information on [fees to access UK Biobank data can be found here](#).

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