This is an example template of the application form researchers will complete when submitting an application for access to the UK Biobank resource.

You may wish to fill this template in and copy your responses onto the main form on the Access Management System (AMS).

A. Application details

The purpose of the application is for UK Biobank to determine whether the proposed research project is health-related, feasible and in the public interest. For this, we require a brief synopsis of the research plan (i.e. a description of the aims, methods and intended outputs) rather than a full scientific review.

A1. Project title (200 characters):

A2. Research question(s) and aim(s) (up to 5000 characters or 200 words):

Does your project require biological samples?

Yes / No

Please refer to our sample policy that provides guidelines for researchers when making an application for the release of UK Biobank samples. Biological samples are regarded by UK Biobank as being depletable and irreplaceable.

Applications that request biological samples will be considered on the basis of the guidance on the website which includes evaluating the scientific justification of the research, the validity and utility of the assay and sample volume requirements. If you wish to proceed with a sample application request, please provide outline details of your requirements in Section C below.

Does your project require UK Biobank to re-contact participants?

Yes / No

Although our participants have consented to be re-contacted, they have not consented to be re-contacted on demand. As such, decisions on whether re-contact is justifiable and appropriate will be made by UK Biobank, with advice from the Ethics and Governance Council, and such re-contact requires separate approval from a Research Ethics Committee (and UK Biobank will generally also require independent scientific review to help ensure that re-contact is warranted). If you wish to proceed with a re-contact application request, please provide outline details of your requirements in Section D below.

Please provide information on each of the following:

A3. The background and scientific rationale of the proposed research project in general (up to 5000 characters or 300 words):
A4. A brief description of the method(s) to be used (up to 5000 characters or 300 words):


A5. The type and size of dataset required (e.g., case-control subset, men only, imaging data only, whole cohort, etc.) (Up to 5000 characters or 100 words):


A6. The expected value of the research (taking into account the public interest requirement) (up to 5000 characters or 100 words):


A7. Please provide up to 6 keywords which best summarise your proposed research project:


A8. Please provide a lay summary of your research project in plain English, stating the aims, scientific rationale, project duration and public health impact (up to 5000 characters or 400 words):


A9. Will the research project result in the generation of any new data fields derived from existing complex datasets, such as imaging, accelerometry, electrocardiographic, linked healthcare data, etc, which might be of significant utility to other researchers:

Yes / No

A10. What is the estimated duration of your project, in months? If you consider (because for example the project is one involving the generation of hypotheses) that it would be difficult to set a fixed end point, we are prepared to consider a rolling 3-year period (during which annual updates are required):

36 months

Please note that you are expected to publish (or to make publicly available) your results and return to UK Biobank:

- any important derived variables
- a description of the methods used to generate them
- the underlying syntax/code used to generate the main results of the paper, and
- a short layman's description that summarises your findings.

These should be provided within six months of each publication or within 12 months of the project end date (whichever comes first). We also ask that you send us a copy of your accepted manuscript at least two weeks prior to publication and alert us if there are any ethical or contentious issues surrounding the findings.
B. Selection of data-fields

This part of the application form asks some general questions relating to required data for your research project. In addition, clicking the 'Create Application Basket' button below allows you to access Data Showcase, create a basket, and add the data-fields needed for your research. Please refer to the online help for guidance and examples.

B1. Would you like to access an existing copy of the genotyping dataset held at your institute?

Yes / No

B2. Would you like to access an existing copy of other bulk data files (e.g., imaging and eye scans, accelerometer data, fitness bike ECG, hospital or primary care data) held at your institute?

Yes / No

B3: Please select the tier you wish to access: Tier 1

Tier 2

Tier 3

C. Selection of samples (This section only becomes available if you answer yes to requiring biological samples)

The purpose of this section is to clarify precisely which type of samples are required for your application, as well as your intended use for those samples.

C1. What are the sample type(s), volume(s) and number(s) of samples required? Please refer to the online help for guidance including, for example, information on how DNA was extracted.

- Sample type and collection period can be selected using the dropdowns provided and the remaining criteria can be filled out using free-text. You can request multiple sample types within the same application and can do so by selecting ‘Request another sample type’

C2. If you are intending that an external lab (i.e. not UK Biobank) will conduct the assay, please provide brief details of the proposed lab, the proposed and the related quality control protocol using no more than 150 words.
C3. If you wish to upload documentation to support the proposed assay(s) and quality control, please do so here.

D. Re-contacting participants (This section only becomes available if you answer yes to requiring UK Biobank to re-contact participants)

D1. Please consult the guidance on the website relating to re-contact applications and provide the scientific justification for and details of the nature of the re-contact using up to 300 words (in order words why does the conduct of your research project require the re-contact of UK Biobank participants)

D2. If you wish to upload further documentation to support your request for re-contact, please do so here (.pdf format only).

Please ensure all researchers who are intending to use the UK Biobank resource are registered on our AMS and added to your application as a collaborator through the Collaborators tab.

You must add contact details for a countersignature at your institute in the MTA tab. The MTA contact should be someone different to the PI/Lead Collaborator and should be authorised to sign legally binding documents on behalf of the institute.

Updated August 2019