Documentation - User Instructions - UKBiobank Access Request
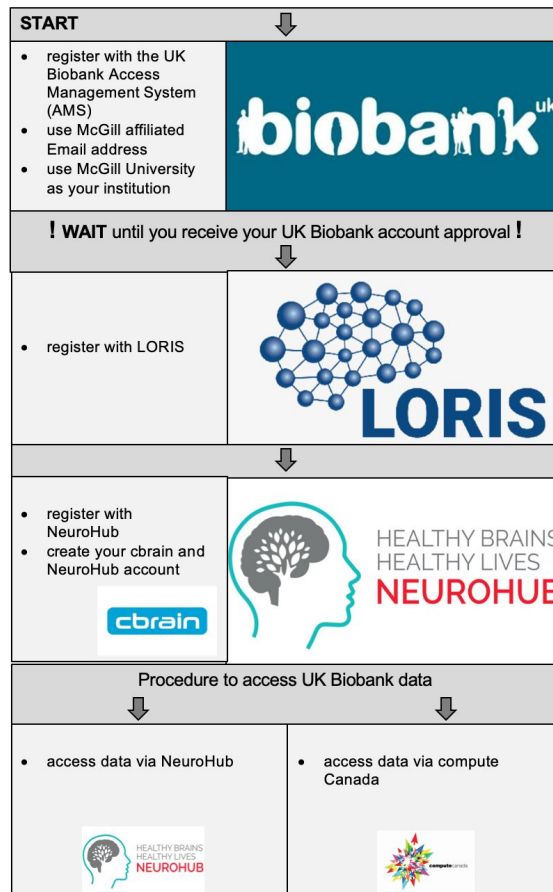
McGill University and the UK Biobank Limited have signed a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) that allows McGill researchers to use the UK Biobank Resource for specific, select projects. New Applicant Researchers can be added to the application, and request access to the UK Biobank Resources, by completing the following steps:

Please note: all steps must be followed in sequence and each one confirmed as successfully completed before proceeding to subsequent steps.

Questions or Issues?

For any questions or issues related to the registration process for accessing the UK Biobank data though the McGill agreement, please contact the NeuroHub team by email at ukbiobank.neurohub@mcin.ca.

For any questions or issues specifically related to accessing the NeuroHub portal, please contact the Neurohub team by email support@neurohub.ca.

Flow Diagram - User Instructions - UKB Access Request

What you need during the application process
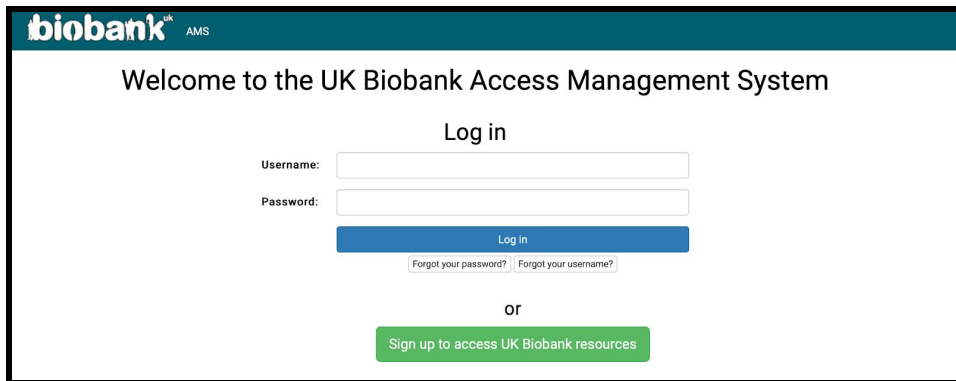
PREREQUISITES to access data

General Prerequisites

- McGill affiliated email address

Getting a UK Biobank Account

UK Biobank Access Management (AMS) - what you need:

- Some patience (Once processed, registrations will be confirmed by email from the UK Biobank and may take **up to two weeks** to complete.)
- It is of great importance to choose "McGill University" as your "name of primary institute" from the drop-down menu, otherwise your account cannot be linked to your LORIS account later on.

Getting a LORIS Account

To complete this step you first need the registration confirmation from the UK Biobank!!

fill in the LORIS Users Consent and Agreement form
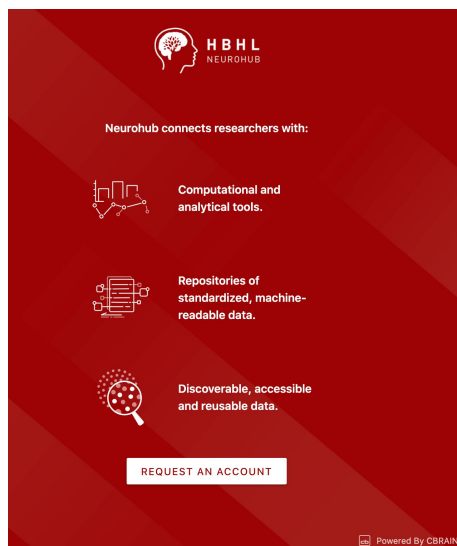
- read the Material Transfer Agreement ([MTA](#))
- read the [approved application](#)
- you need to indicate the following points:
    - think about which processing pipelines you are going to use for your planned analysis with the UKB data
- if you are working in a funded project
    - you need to know
        - granting agency /program
        - name of principal investigator

- ■ your role on the project
- ■ title of research project and a short summary
- PT record to upload
- Description of the purpose and how the UK Biobank data will be used (1000 words max.)

Getting a NeuroHub / CBRAIN Account OR Compute Canada Account

to get a NeuroHub / CBRAIN Account
- Visit the NeuroHub portal, and request an account if needed. Account requests will be confirmed by email once created within the NeuroHub portal. For new account requests please ensure to use your McGill email address which would have been used for your registration with the UK Biobank.
- If you already have a CBRAIN account, it will work with NeuroHub.

to get a Compute Canada Account

- Apply for a Compute Canada account if you do not already have an account. The above link provides detailed information about how to apply for a Compute Canada account.

- Select the "Register" action from the front-page of the Compute Canada Database (CCDB)
- Complete the registration procedure specifying your Institution, Department and Position details. For the "Sponsor" information you must specify the CCRI (Compute Canada Role Identifier) of your immediate supervisor (Faculty Member). This information will be available from your supervisor. It will look like (abc-123-12). If you are a Faculty member, alternate information will be requested.
- **Once you have received confirmation that your Compute Canada registration has been completed and approved by your immediate supervisor, or if you already have a Compute Canada account, you can proceed.**

PROCEDURE to access data

Please note: all steps must be followed in sequence and each one confirmed as successfully completed before proceeding to subsequent steps.

1. Register with the UK Biobank Access Management System (AMS). Be sure to specify your McGill affiliated email address when completing your registration. Detailed instructions regarding the registration process are available here. **For those users with an existing UK Biobank account please ensure to add McGill University as your current institutional affiliation.**
(Once processed, registrations will be confirmed by email from the UK Biobank and may take **up to two weeks** to complete.)

2.   After having received the registration confirmation from the UK Biobank complete and agree to the terms of the User Consent & Agreement Form specific to the McGill agreement with the UK Biobank .This step and the collection of the required information is necessary so as to confirm the details of your UK Biobank registration, and to verify eligibility to access the data as part of the approved application. Once reviewed and approved, users will be added to the associated McGill UK Biobank application. Users will receive an email from the AMS system notifying them of the status and updated affiliation with the McGill UK Biobank application.
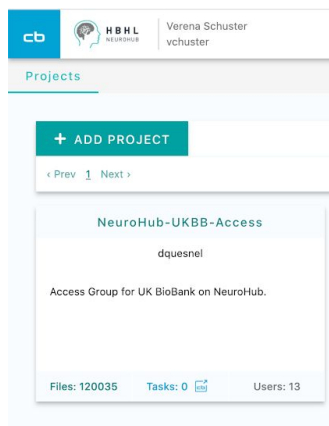
3. At this step, users are entitled to access the UK Biobank data through the McGill agreement. Access is managed by the NeuroHub team and at present is possible though two resource points:

    a. *The NeuroHub Platform*, which is a core facility of the Healthy Brains, Healthy Lives (HBHL) initiative. NeuroHub brings together established data and computational infrastructure with new technologies to provide a web-based platform to support scientific research in neuroinformatics, genomics, social sciences, biology, among others.

    b. The *Compute Canada National Platform* system of Béluga, with the UK Biobank data managed on that platform by the NeuroHub team.

To request access to the UK Biobank data via the NeuroHub platform, please complete **step 3a**.
To request access to the UK Biobank data via the Compute Canada Béluga system, please complete steps **3b**.

3a. To request access to the UK Biobank data through the NeuroHub Platform. Login to the NeuroHub portal and go to the Projects tab. Under the list of Projects you will see the datasets associated with the UK Biobank. Dataset files can be downloaded via the NeuroHub portal for analysis on your local system. Additional data processing capabilities will soon be added directly into the NeuroHub portal.

3b. To request access the UK Biobank data through the Compute Canada Béluga system
Request access to the UK Biobank Compute Canada data sharing group. - Send an email to ukbiobank.neurohub@mcin.ca with the Subject: **"NeuroHub Compute**

Canada Access Request" and the body of the email containing the value of your CCRI (Compute Canada Role Identifier), as well as your first and last name. Please ensure to send the email from the McGill email address with which you have registered to the UK Biobank.

Your CCRI can be determined by:
- login to the Compute Canada Database (CCDB)
- your CCRI is indicated in bold and is of the form **abc-123-12**.

Once approved, you can access the UK Biobank data on the Béluga computing system of Compute Canada. Access to Béluga is possible via SSH to **beluga.computecanada.ca**. These data are provided "as-is" and are located within the following NeuroHub directory:

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/project/rpp-aevans-ab/neurohub/ukbb/
```

Please note: Only users who have successfully completed the full steps of the registration process and have been approved by the NeuroHub team will be enabled to access the UK Biobank data on Béluga. Access controls are in place which restrict access to the UK Biobank data such that only users who have been authorized to join the data sharing group may access the data.