

Guidance for applications to access to the Blueprint Data

Researchers who wish to access the genetic and phenotype data generated by the Blueprint Consortium, which is held within the European Genome Phenome Archive (EGA), are required to apply to the Blueprint Data Access Committee (DAC) for permission to access the data.

The data access web page on the blueprint website provides links to the Data Access Agreement and Application as well as our general principles which describe how the DAC is organised and who the current members of the DAC are.

(<http://www.blueprint-epigenome.eu/index.cfm?p=B5E93EE0-09E2-5736-A708817C27EF2DB7>)

In order to apply for access to a particular Blueprint data set or data sets an applicant must fill out the Data Access Agreement and Application.

The Data Access Agreement

The Data Access Agreement is a form that sets out the terms under which the data is provided to the applicant. This is signed by the applicant to confirm agreement to adhere to these terms.

This document must contain the names of and be signed by all applicants and by a person with administrative authority for the applicant's organisation.

These agreements are made on a per organisation basis. If researchers from collaborating institutions or commercial companies all wish to utilise Blueprint data sets, the researchers from each organisation must apply independently.

The Data Access Application

The Data Access Application is a form that allows the full name, address and email address of all applicants to be listed. A list of the data set IDs for which access is required should also be present. Finally the applicant should describe the research questions they wish to answer using these data and the expertise they possess which allows them to answer these questions.

Please note only named applicants should use any data, which is provided through the EGA by Blueprint. If additional individuals need to use the data, a new application naming these individuals, is required.

When reading the contents of the Research Question box, in order to be able to make a decision, the DAC needs to understand three points.

- What is the question the applicant is trying to answer?
- How does the applicant intend to use the data sets to answer the question?
- Why does the applicant need the specified data sets?

Please ensure the text in the Research Question box addresses these three points. If the DAC feels insufficient information has been provided more detail will be requested.

The applicant must also describe the feasibility of what is planned in the Feasibility box. This should describe the applicant's expertise and why they are well placed to answer the question being posed.

Access to anticipated future data sets

The Blueprint DAC will not provide blanket access to anticipated future data sets. As the Blueprint Consortium progresses, new data will be produced and data sets that contain expanded versions of existing data collections will be created. For example as more RNASeq data is collected on Neutrophil cells, new data sets will be created, containing the both the old data and any newly collected data. This means that analyses conducted with a particular set of data can be linked to that data in a traceable manner. All individuals will be required to apply for access to newer data sets.

If you have already been given permission to access existing Blueprint data sets we aim to turn around re-applications more quickly. In order to gain access to newer data sets or to add new named co-applicants, reapplication will be required.

The reapplication process is lighter weight than the original application process assuming no new named applicants are being added. For applications where all the named applicants are the same only a new Data Access Application form is required. If the list of named applicants has changed a new Data Access Agreement form is required.

When reapplying for access to new Blueprint data sets please explain why you need access to these newer data sets. If your research question remains the same, please explain why the newer data sets will help you answer your question. If your research question has changed please follow the guidance above and provide, a why, what and how for the requested data sets with respect to your research question.

If you have any questions about the Blueprint DAC application process please email blueprint-dac@ebi.ac.uk.