Full Accredited Researcher Application

Chapter 5 of Part 5 of the Digital Economy Act (DEA) 2017 facilitates the linking and sharing of datasets held by public authorities (as defined in the Act) for research purposes, across the UK. The provisions aim to broaden the capacity of research to deliver direct and indirect public benefits, including the production of valuable new research insights about UK society and the economy. To provide clarity and transparency about how the research power will operate, the UK Statistics Authority has issued a [Research Code of Practice](https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/COP_Research-and-Accreditation_A4.pdf) and Accreditation Criteria concerning the disclosure, processing, holding or use of personal information under the DEA.

The Code sets out the criteria for the accreditation of processors, research projects and researchers and the Authority has established the [Research Accreditation Panel](https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/better-useofdata-statistics-and-research/betterdataaccess-research/better-use-of-data/) (RAP) to independently accredit each of these.

The information you provide on this application must be accurate, to the best of your knowledge and belief.

Your first name, last name and organisation name will be published on the UK Statistics Authority website in a record of Accredited Researchers as required by the DEA. Your name and details will only be used to process your application and to contact you where appropriate. In the event of a suspected breach of the terms of access, your contact details may be disclosed to other persons or organisations involved in any investigation or sanction, including other DEA Accredited Processors, a list of which is published on the UK Statistics Authority website.

Guidance on completing this application is available on the UK Statistics Authority website.

# Criteria against which each application will be considered

*An applicant must be able to demonstrate the appropriate knowledge and experience necessary to access personal information for research under the DEA and demonstrate a commitment to protecting and maintaining confidentiality of data.*

*Applicants must:*

* *Have obtained a relevant undergraduate degree (or higher) that includes a significant proportion of maths or statistics* ***or*** *be able to demonstrate at least three years quantitative research experience;*
* *Have successfully completed a Safe Researcher training course run by ONS, or another equivalent course which has been recognised by ONS such as is run by the UK Data Service, the Administrative Data Research UK partners or Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs (HMRC);*
* *Agree to their inclusion in a record of all DEA Accredited Researchers and Accredited Research projects, published on the* [*UK Statistics Authority website*](https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/better-useofdata-statistics-and-research/betterdataaccess-research/better-use-of-data/)*[[1]](#footnote-1);*
* *Agree to publish the results of all Accredited Research projects completed as a DEA Accredited Researcher; and,*
* *Sign and adhere to the Accredited Researcher Declaration.*

*This accreditation is expected to last for a period of* ***five years****.*

Individuals who do not meet the qualifications or research experience criteria above, but who have been asked to contribute to an Accredited Research project, may apply for Provisional Researcher Accreditation, subject to meeting the required criteria. The application form for Provisional Researcher Accreditation is available on the [UK Statistics Authority website](https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/better-useofdata-statistics-and-research/betterdataaccess-research/better-useofdata-for-research-information-for-researchers/).

**Any relevant information in the fields marked \* is mandatory and, if marked \*\* will also be published on the UK Statistics Authority website as a public record of all Accredited Researchers and their Accredited Research projects.**

1. **Your Details:**

*Personal details and contact information of the Accredited Researcher applicant;*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Last name\*\* |  |
| First name\*\* |  |
| Middle names (if any) |  |
| Work telephone no.\* |  |
| Work email address\* |  |
| Date of Birth\* | Click or tap to enter a date. |

1. **Your Organisation Details:**

*Details of the organisation you work for;*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Organisation name[[2]](#footnote-2)\*\* |  |
| Organisation Type\* | Choose an item. |
| Organisation address\* |  |
| Organisation postcode\* |  |
| Organisation website |  |

1. **Qualifications:**
	1. *Do you consider that your qualifications meet the requirements for an Accredited Researcher (e.g. an undergraduate degree or higher, including a significant mathematics or statistical component)?*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *[ ]*  | Yes | *[ ]*  | No |

* 1. *If yes, please provide details below. If no, please go to Section 4.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Highest relevant qualification |  |
| Subject of the qualification |  |
| Institution that awarded the qualification |  |

* 1. *Please provide details of the mathematical or statistical components included within your qualification*

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1. **Research Experience:**

***All*** *applicants should complete this section. Individuals without sufficient relevant academic qualifications (in section 3) must provide evidence of at least three years quantitative research experience.*

*4.1 Please provide the name(s) of the organisation(s) you have worked for or studied with whilst undertaking quantitative research.*

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organisation Name** | **Start Date (mm/yy)** | **Finish Date (mm/yy)** |
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*4.2 Please provide details of the quantitative research experience you gained working for the organisation(s) listed above, focusing on the statistical techniques you used.*

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1. **Experience Using Data for Statistical Research:**

*Evidence of previous experience using data for statistical research purposes may help demonstrate your commitment to protecting and maintaining confidentiality.*

* 1. *Please provide one example of* ***previous*** *statistical research.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Statistical data used  |  |
| Source of statistical data |  |
| Research title and date |  |
| Your specific involvement  |  |
| Statistical techniques used  |  |
| Measures used to protect confidentiality of any outputs |  |
| Statistical software used  |  |

1. **Any Other Information:**

*Please include any other information or evidence you feel would help to demonstrate your suitability to be an Accredited Researcher.*

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1. **Transparency:**

*Under the Digital Economy Act, the UK Statistics Authority requires that Accredited Researchers and their projects are included in a public record on the Authority’s website and that the Accredited Research project results are published. UK Statistics Authority will only grant exemptions in exceptional circumstances (e.g. where there are security concerns around naming individuals).*

***NB*** *Exemptions relating to individual projects should not be noted here. They should be referred to on the research project application form.*

*7.1 Do you agree to your inclusion in the DEA Accredited Researcher public record?*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *[ ]*  | Yes | *[ ]*  | No |

*7.2 Do you agree to publish the results of any research undertaken as an Accredited Researcher?* ***NB****. Answering yes will not prevent you from asking for an exemption on the Accredited Research project application.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *[ ]*  | Yes | [ ]  | No |

*7.3 If you have answered ‘No’ to either 7.1 or 7.2, please explain the exceptional circumstances that require an exemption (see the completion guidance for more information).*

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***Please note that refusing to be included in the DEA Accredited Researcher public record, or to publish the results of your research, may result in your application for accreditation being declined.***

**Data is at the heart of what we do, so it’s important to us that your data is held and used securely, responsibly and transparently. Read our privacy policy**[**here**](https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/privacy-policy/privacy-notice/)***.***

**Once completed, please return this application by email to:** Research.Support@ons.gov.uk

1. *UK Statistics Authority may grant an exemption to this condition in exceptional circumstances (e.g. where there are security concerns around naming individuals).* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Individuals who work for more than one organisation should refer to their primary employer in this section.* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)