

Funding awards to UK Biobank – updated July 2024

UK Biobank is funded primarily by the Wellcome charity and the Medical Research Council (MRC). Both organisations have provided funds to plan, roll out and maintain the study, and to enhance the resource as the study has matured. The main areas of funding are shown below.

Approved researchers using the UK Biobank resource are funded from a wide range of health charities, academia & industry, both in the UK and overseas. Some companies have invested considerably, to analyse data and to make those new results available to the wider research community. For instance, a consortium of companies led by Regeneron in the USA has undertaken exome sequencing of UK Biobank genetics data at a cost to them of many millions of US dollars. On other occasions, companies have provided research platforms to UK Biobank at significant discounts in order to accelerate the accumulation of data available to researchers on UK Biobank participants.

The true value of UK Biobank is not only in the results that improve health and save lives. Its impact will be seen in many new research collaborations and in new ways of doing things that are encouraged and are emerging as more researchers use the UK Biobank resource. A summary of [approved research](#) and [published papers](#) are available on the UK Biobank website.

ORGANISATION/ CHARITY	CATEGORY	AMOUNT	PROJECT FUNDED
MRC (MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL)	Core	£26.8m	2004-2010: Pilot & roll out of the main phase of recruitment.
		£53.4m	2010-2029: Storing samples & data, developing the resource, making it available for health research & maintaining contact with participants.
	Enhancements	£1.8m	Collection of additional information from participants during their assessment - including eye measures, physical fitness (static bike), additional blood & saliva.
	Imaging	£23.1m	Establishing & delivering an MRI imaging study of 100,000 participants, taking pictures of key internal organs including brain & heart and making images available for research.
		£8.5m	Establishing an imaging assessment centre in Bristol, and a contribution towards 10,000 repeat imaging assessments.
	Biochemistry	£4.0m	Measurement of a wide range of biochemical markers in donated blood from 500,000 participants, including cholesterol, calcium, vitamin D, glucose & urea.
	Genetics	£10.0m	Genotyping of 500,000 UK Biobank participants and making these data available for health research.
		£30.0m	Undertaking whole genome sequencing of 50,000 genomes.
		£3.0m	Undertaking whole genome sequencing of the full cohort.

ORGANISATION/ CHARITY	CATEGORY	AMOUNT	PROJECT FUNDED
	Ethics	£1.4m	Establishing an Ethics and Governance Council for UK Biobank
		£0.2m	Developing a new Ethics Advisory Service for UK Biobank
	Repeat imaging	£10.0m	Undertaking repeat imaging of up to 60,000 participants who have had an initial scan undertaken as part of the baseline imaging programme
	World Class Laboratories	£1.9m	Purchase of laboratory equipment
	Infrastructure	£1.6m	Preliminary work on a programme to replace UK Biobank infrastructure
		£7.5m	Initial funding for preliminary works for UK Biobank's new infrastructure
		£120.0m	Further infrastructure funding
TOTAL		£303.2m	
WELLCOME TRUST	Core	£26.8m	2004-2010: Pilot & roll out of the main phase of recruitment.
		£53.2m	2010-2029: Storing samples & data, developing the resource, making it available for health research & maintaining contact with participants
	Enhancements	£1.8m	Collection of additional information from participants during their assessment – including eye measures, physical fitness (static bike), additional blood & saliva.
	Imaging	£20.6m	MRI imaging study of 100,000 participants, taking pictures of key internal organs including brain & heart and making images available for research.
		£4.0m	Further funding for imaging study
	Biochemistry	£4.0m	Measurement of a wide range of biochemical markers in donated blood from 500,000 participants, including cholesterol, calcium, vitamin D, glucose & urea.
	Genetics	£20.0m	Provision of a managed informatics platform for accessing the UK Biobank resource and supporting research analyses
	Ethics	£1.4m	Establishing an Ethics and Governance Council for UK Biobank
		£0.2m	Developing a new Ethics Advisory Service for UK Biobank
TOTAL		£132.0m	

ORGANISATION/ CHARITY	CATEGORY	AMOUNT	PROJECT FUNDED
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	Core	£5.0m	2004-2010: Pilot & roll out of the main phase of recruitment.
		£1.3m	2010-2015: Storing samples & data, developing the resource, making it available for health research & maintaining contact with participants.
	Enhancements	£1.8m	Collection of additional information from participants during their assessment – including eye measures, physical fitness (static bike), additional blood & saliva.
	Genetics	£10.0m	Genotyping of 500,000 UK Biobank participants and making these data available for health research.
	COVID-19 Seroprevalence	£3.0m	A population-based sub-study from UK Biobank participants and their adult (i.e., aged over 18) children and grandchildren to determine the extent of previous infection with the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.
TOTAL		£21.1m	
BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION	Enhancements	£1.0m	Collection of additional information from participants during their assessment – including eye measures, physical fitness (static bike), additional blood & saliva.
	Imaging	£3.0m	MRI imaging study of 100,000 participants, taking pictures of key internal organs including brain & heart and making images available for research.
	Biochemistry	£1.0m	Measurement of a wide range of biochemical markers in donated blood from 500,000 participants, including cholesterol, calcium, vitamin D, glucose & urea.
	Genetics	£1.0m	Genotyping of 500,000 UK Biobank participants and making these data available for health research.
	Core	£6.3m	Core activities 2017-2027 – storing samples & data, developing the resource, making it available for health research & maintaining contact with participants.
TOTAL		£12.3m	
CANCER RESEARCH UK	Core	£5.0m	Core activities 2017-2027 – storing samples & data, developing the resource, making it available for health research & maintaining contact with participants.
TOTAL		£5.0m	
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH RESEARCH (NIHR)	Core	£3.0m	Core activities 2017-2027 – storing samples & data, developing the resource, making it available for health research & maintaining contact with participants.
TOTAL		£3.0m	

ORGANISATION/ CHARITY	CATEGORY	AMOUNT	PROJECT FUNDED
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT	Core	£0.5m	Pilot & roll out of the main phase of recruitment 2004-2010.
TOTAL		£0.5m	
NORTHWEST DEVELOPMENT AGENCY	Core	£0.5m	Pilot & roll out of the main phase of recruitment 2004-2010.
TOTAL		£0.5m	
DIABETES UK	Biochemistry	£0.4m	Measurement of a wide range of biochemical markers in donated blood from 500,000 participants, including cholesterol, calcium, vitamin D, glucose & urea.
TOTAL		£0.4m	
WELSH GOVERNMENT	Core	£0.2m	Pilot & roll out of the main phase of recruitment 2004-2010.
TOTAL		£0.2m	
DEMENTIAS PLATFORM UK	Imaging	£2.6m	Undertaking repeat imaging of up to 10,000 participants who have had an initial scan undertaken as part of the baseline imaging programme.
TOTAL		£2.6m	
CHAN ZUCKERBERG INSTITUTE	Repeat imaging	£10.0m	Undertaking repeat imaging of up to 60,000 participants who have had an initial scan undertaken as part of the baseline imaging programme.
		£5.0m	Additional support for the UK Biobank Repeat Imaging programme including additional sample collection and optical coherence tomography.
TOTAL		£15.0m	
CALICO	Repeat imaging	£10.0m	Undertaking repeat imaging of up to 60,000 participants who have had an initial scan undertaken as part of the baseline imaging programme.
TOTAL		£10.0m	
ERIC SCHMIDT	Philanthropic donations	£8.0m	Research capacity support
TOTAL		£8.0m	
KEN GRIFFIN	Philanthropic donations	£8.0m	Research capacity support
TOTAL		£8.0m	

ORGANISATION/ CHARITY	CATEGORY	AMOUNT	PROJECT FUNDED
DEPARTMENT FOR SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY	Philanthropic donations	£16.0m	Research capacity support. Funding available up to £25.0m to match funding obtained from Philanthropic donors.
TOTAL		£16.0m	
GRAND TOTAL		£537.8m	