

The Australian DNA BRIDGE Study: “DNA BRIDGE”

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose of the DNA Bridge study?

In Australia, medical guidelines are mostly based on research studies where most of the participants are of European ancestry. These guidelines are not always suitable for people from other ancestries. The BRIDGE study aims to increase representation from genetically diverse communities’ involvement in health and genetic research so that we can improve healthcare for individuals with multiple ancestries living in Australia.

2. Who is conducting the study and how is it funded?

The study is led by researchers at the University of Queensland, led by Professor Loic Yengo and supported by a team of researchers. The study is funded by the [Snow Medical Foundation](#) and has been approved by the University of Queensland Human Research Ethics Committee. This ethics approval ensures that the research is done in a way that protects the dignity, rights, and welfare of study participants, as outlined in the Australian Privacy Principles (2014), and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Guidelines for Ethical Conduct of Human Research (2023).

3. Who can take part in this study?

Individuals can take part if they are:

- Over 18 years of age AND
- Individuals who have one parent of European ancestry and the other parent of Asian (South, East and Mainland) ancestry.
- Live in Australia

4. What is involved and what are the time commitments for participating?

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|  Registration (2 mins) |  Read participant information sheet (10 mins) |  Provide consent (2 mins) |  Complete online health survey (30 mins) |  Provide a saliva sample (3 mins) |
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5. Are there financial costs to participating in this study?

There is no financial cost to participating in this study.

6. Will I be paid to take part in this research study?

Once we have received your completed survey and saliva sample, we will send you a \$30.00 e-gift card to say thank you. You can also choose to donate this amount back to support continued research being done by the DNA BRIDGE research team.

7. What will my saliva sample and data be used for?

- Saliva samples will be used to generate genetic data.

- Information from the survey, saliva biomarker and genetic data will all be used to how having different genetic ancestries can impact human health
- It will NOT be used for looking at risk to other current health conditions or future health conditions.

8. What will happen to my data and saliva sample?

Only data and biological samples necessary for the study will be collected. All data will be stored on secure servers behind the UQ security firewall, with appropriate data protection measures, including password-protected access, data encryption and multi-factor authentication. Biological samples (e.g., saliva samples) will be stored in a secure, restricted-access location at the University of Queensland.

9. Will my details be kept confidential?

Yes. Best ethical and legal practice will be followed to keep your information confidential and private. Your samples will be labelled with a unique ID number (not your name) before being stored. Your genetic data will be linked to this unique ID and stored securely and separately from your personal details (such as name and contact details). You will not be identified personally in any report or publication about the DNA BRIDGE study.

10. I do not meet the eligibility criteria but still want to participate. How can I get involved?

There are still many ways to be involved in our DNA BRIDGE study. Please visit our website: www.AusDNABridge.org

11. Can several people from the same family participate?

Yes, if they meet the criteria listed in Question 3.

12. Can I find out about my relatives by participating in this study?

No. This study will not disclose biological relationships between participants.

13. Do I have to be healthy to take part?

Anyone with and without health problems, can take part.

14. Can I still participate if I have previously had genetic testing?

Yes. Regardless of your genetic test results, you can still participate in this study. Your data is valuable to help our goal for better healthcare for future generations.

15. Do I have to change my medication or diet to take part?

No. There are no restrictions in lifestyle, dietary or types of treatment you receive throughout the study. You can continue taking your regular medications. You will not be asked to take any new medications as part of this study and will not be asked to change your diet to take part in this study.

16. Can I take part in this study if I don't have access to a computer or smart device?

Yes. We can help you by arranging to have a trained research officer verbally conduct the survey via telephone with you at an agreed upon time. If this is not suitable, we can provide you with a paper copy of the survey to complete at home and return via post at your earliest convenience.

17. Can I stop taking part in DNA BRIDGE study?

Yes. You can stop participating in DNA BRIDGE study at any time. Withdrawal from the study at any time will not affect your primary care in any way, your relationship with the research team, or with the University of Queensland.

18. My question is not answered here, who can I contact for more information?

Please feel free to email the research team at hsu-projects@uq.edu.au

If you would like a call, please email us your contact details and one of our team members will be in touch.