

CLSA Data Access for Trainees



About the CLSA Research Platform

The Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA) is a large, national research platform on health and aging allowing researchers to answer critical questions on the biological, medical, psychological, social, lifestyle and economic aspects of aging, disability and disease. The CLSA follows 51,338 men and women who were between the ages of 45 and 85 at recruitment, for 20 years. Through its large sample, detailed data collection and longitudinal design, the CLSA enables research on the complex interplay among health determinants.



Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging
Étude longitudinale canadienne sur le vieillissement



What is special about data access for trainees?

The CLSA provides data to qualifying graduate students and postdoctoral and clinical fellows at *no cost*. Trainees conducting research can access data through our usual data access application process, detailed on our website at www.clsa-elcv.ca.

Providing free access to CLSA data for trainees has two objectives:

- To build the capacity of trainees to undertake health-related research; and
- To increase awareness of CLSA's data holdings, and the importance of data quality and privacy, as trainees pursue careers in the health field.

Who can apply?

The CLSA data are available to approved Canadian and international researchers and trainees. However, fee waivers are only available for trainees enrolled at a recognized institution in Canada and Canadian trainees based at institutions outside Canada but funded through a Canadian source.

A fee waiver (some restrictions apply) will be granted to trainees if the CLSA dataset requested will be for the sole use of the graduate student's thesis research or the postdoctoral or clinical fellow's research project (limit one waiver per fellow). For trainee applications, the applicant must be the supervisor, on behalf of the trainee.

What data are available?

As of 2023, the following data is available:

- Baseline, Follow-up 1 and Follow-up 2 questionnaire data
- Baseline, Follow-up 1 and Follow-up 2 cognition data
- Baseline, Follow-up 1 and Follow-up 2 physical assessments data
- Baseline and Follow-up 1 hematology and chemistry report
- Baseline genomics, epigenetics and metabolomics data
- Baseline and Follow-up 1 linked Health Canada and CANUE data on air quality, neighbourhood factors, greenness indicators and weather
- Baseline and Follow-up 1 images and raw data (note: those are not covered by the trainee fee waiver)
- COVID-19 Questionnaire Study data
- COVID-19 Seroprevalence Study data
- Decedent Questionnaire

Follow-up data collection events will be repeated every three years

How long is the process to obtain the data?

The CLSA has four submission deadlines in 2024, announced at www.clsa-elcv.ca. Researchers are invited to submit and track data access requests using Magnolia, the CLSA's online data access application system.

The Data and Sample Access Committee (DSAC) reviews all applications for the use of CLSA data and biospecimens. The primary applicant will be contacted once the review process is complete, or sooner if additional information is required.

Once your application is approved, a CLSA Access Agreement must be signed between McMaster University and the primary applicant's institution. This agreement outlines the specific uses of data and the CLSA expectations with regard to privacy and confidentiality. This part of the process can take a variable length of time, up to 12 weeks, and is not under the control of the CLSA. Please be aware that this will affect the length of time that it takes for the data to be released. In addition, proof of ethics review of the project from the primary applicant's institution is required prior to data release. While this is a generous estimate, applicants should be prepared for the process to take **six months** from the date of the submission deadline to receipt of the data.



How to apply

Researchers interested in accessing the CLSA data can apply online by visiting www.clsa-elcv.ca. For trainee applications, the request for a user account must be made by the supervisor on behalf of the trainee. While trainees can complete the application online, only the primary applicant can submit the application. The supervisor, as the primary applicant, is responsible for the content of the application.

Please email access@clsa-elcv.ca to request a Magnolia user account, providing your full name, institutional email, position title, intended degree, program of study and institution as part of your request. If you are also requesting an account for your trainee(s), please include their name(s), institutional email(s) and program(s) of study. You will receive the login information within 2-3 days.

Visit www.clsa-elcv.ca for detailed information on the available data and to apply for access

Follow us:

