ONS Training

All researchers requesting data access to the UK LLC must have ONS accreditation either as a **Full accredited researcher under the DEA** or a **Provisional accredited researcher under the DEA.** The Office for National Statistics Secure Research Service (SRS) gives accredited or approved researchers secure access to de-identified, unpublished data to work on research projects for the public good. The ONS has been accredited as a Digital Economy Act (DEA) 2017 processor by the UK Statistics Authority to prepare and provide data for research purposes. The SRS provides a safe setting as part of the Five Safes Framework to protect data confidentiality. The framework is a set of principles adopted by a range of secure labs, including the ONS. Most datasets are available to access through remote access to the SRS. In some instances, the data can only be accessed from an approved safe setting.

If a researcher does not have ONS accreditation, the researcher must successfully complete the **ONS Safe Researcher Trainer Course (ONS-SRT)**. The ONS-SRT course covers researcher responsibilities in handling: SRT covers:

- Data security and personal responsibility, including legal background, security model, breaches and penalties
- Statistical Disclosure Control - how to make statistical outputs safe and what principles are used
- Using the Secure Lab* - how to use the interface and how to prepare and request data imports and suitable statistical outputs

*If you are trained by a different service, this 'service specific' component will differ. After attending the training course and passing the associated test, users will be expected to apply to become an Accredited Researcher (AR). Accredited researcher status is only required to access data using ONS services. SRT is one of the courses accepted as valid information governance training by most UK administrative data providers.

The following organisations provide the ONS Safe Research Training Course (ONS-SRT):

1. **Scottish Centre for Administrative Data Research (https://www.scadr.ac.uk/administrative-data/training/ons-safe-researcher-training-course-ons-srt)**

   - Monday 7th June 9:30-13:30
   - Friday 9th July 9:30-13:30

2. **UK Data Service Safe Researcher Training https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/news-and-events/events**

   - Monday 7th June
   - Wednesday 30th June
   - Monday 19th July
   - Monday 2nd August
   - Wednesday 25th August
   - Monday 13th September
   - Tuesday 5th October

- Monday 25th October
- Thursday 11th November 2021
- Wednesday 1st December
- Monday 20th December

Once the researcher successfully completes the ONS-SRT course, the researcher can apply to either of the two accreditations:

1. **Full accredited researcher under the DEA**
   (https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/DEA_Accredited_Researcher_Application_Guidance_v1.0.pdf).

   Becoming a full accredited researcher under the DEA is the most common gateway for access and allows researchers to carry out analysis and produce outputs on projects in the SRS. To be a full accredited researcher, individuals must have an undergraduate degree (or higher) including a significant proportion of maths or statistics or demonstrate at least three years of quantitative research experience. *Successful completion of a Safe Researcher training course is also required as part of the accreditation process*. Full accredited researcher status is valid for five years.

   a. Have an undergraduate degree (or higher) including a significant proportion of maths or statistics, or be able to demonstrate at least three years quantitative research experience; and
   b. 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 HM Revenue and Customs;
   c. Agree to their inclusion in a list of all Accredited Researchers, published on the UK Statistics Authority website;
   d. Agree to publish the results of all Accredited Research projects completed as an Accredited Researcher; and,
   e. Sign and adhere to a formal Accredited Researcher Declaration.

2. **Provisional accredited researcher under the DEA**
   (https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/DEA_Provisional_Accredited_Researcher_Application_Guidance_v1.0.pdf).

   Individuals who do not meet the academic qualifications or research experience criteria to be a Full Accredited Researcher (AR), but who have been asked to contribute to an Accredited Research project led by a DEA Accredited Researcher, may be granted Provisional Accredited Researcher status, subject to meeting the following criteria:

   a. **The applicant must have successfully completed a Safe Researcher training course run by ONS, or another equivalent approved courses such as those run by the UK Data Service, the Administrative Data Research UK partners or HMRC;**

b. The applicant must agree to their inclusion in a list of all DEA Accredited Researchers published on the UK Statistics Authority website;
c. The applicant may only work on projects with the supervising Accredited Researcher;
d. An Accredited Researcher must agree to direct, supervise and take responsibility for all work undertaken by the applicant and support their application;
e. An Accredited Researcher must agree to publish the results of all research projects completed by the Provisional Accredited Researcher;
f. The application must explain how the individual's skills will contribute to any research projects they work on;
g. Both the applicant and the supervising Accredited Researcher must work for the same organisation; and
h. Both the applicant and the Accredited Researcher must sign and adhere to the Provisional Accredited Researcher Declaration.