

Human Tissue Authority

How to donate a body

Human bodies are used to teach students about the structure of the body and how it works. This is called anatomical examination. Human bodies and body parts are also used to train surgeons and other healthcare professionals. Organisations which carry out these activities are licensed by the HTA. People can decide in advance to donate their body to medical science after their death. These donations are highly valued by staff and students at medical schools.

If you wish to donate your body for medical education training or research, you should make your wishes known in writing (and witnessed) before you die, and inform your next of kin.

To make your wishes known you need to complete a consent form. This form is available from your local medical school (please see overleaf).

The completed and witnessed form should then be kept with any Will you may have made and a copy lodged with your local medical school.

Your body cannot be accepted for donation unless your agreement has been written down and witnessed and the consent document produced on death. The law lays down that consent has to come from the donor only. Someone with power of attorney cannot make the decision on your behalf.

You should contact the Bequeathal Secretary at your local medical school who will give you a bequeathal booklet which explains in detail the arrangements for donating your body.

If you need any further advice you can contact one of the HTA Regulation Assistants: 020 7211 3437 or 020 7269 1947.

Will a body definitely be accepted by a local medical school?

Whilst all medical schools very much welcome the offer of a donation, they cannot guarantee that they will accept the offer. There are medical criteria to be met and as circumstances may change over time, the medical school cannot make a decision about accepting your body until death has occurred. There is no upper limit.

On death, your relatives should contact the local medical school. They will be able to provide advice and information about handling the donation. The medical school will ask a number of questions to establish whether there are any medical reasons against donation. The Bequeathal Secretary will be able to answer any questions you may have. If the medical school are not able to accept the donation, they should be able to advise which medical school would do so.

Body donation FAQs

Frequently asked questions about body donation.

What is the role of the HTA in body donation?

Anatomy is the study of the structure and functions of the body. The HTA licenses and inspects establishments, such as medical schools, which teach anatomy using donated bodies.

The HTA provides general information on body donation but does not provide detailed information on behalf of each establishment, such as body donation acceptance criteria or opening times. This kind of information can only be obtained directly from the establishment.

Contact details for medical schools are available to download from the right-hand side of this page.

If you require further assistance, you can contact one of the HTA Regulation Assistants: 020 7211 3437 / 020 7269 1947.

If I choose to donate my body, what can it be used for?

With your consent, your donated body can be used for a number of possible uses:

1. "Anatomical examination" – this term describes the teaching of the structure and function of the human body to students or healthcare professionals
2. "Research" – this term describes scientific studies which improve the understanding of the human body
3. "Education and training" – these terms describe the training of healthcare professionals, usually those learning surgical techniques, as opposed to anatomical examination.

What do I need to do in order to donate my body?

Under the Human Tissue Act, written consent must be given prior to death; consent cannot be given by anyone else after your death. A consent form can be obtained from your local medical school and a copy should be kept in your will. You should also inform your family, close friends and GP that you wish to donate your body.

I signed a body donation consent form 10 years ago and just heard that a new law, affecting body donation, came into force in 2006. Will the consent form I originally signed be accepted when I die or must I complete a new form?

Although the new law affecting body donation (the Human Tissue Act 2004) came into force on 1 September 2006, it allows documented and valid consent for body donation made under the old law to be honoured. The ease with which your body donation offer is accepted might be improved if you include an updated intention to donate your body in your Will. More details can be obtained directly from the anatomy establishment to which you wish to donate your body.

I have recently moved to a different part of the country. Will I need to fill in a new body donation consent form?

Not necessarily. A form completed for one anatomy establishment might also be acceptable to another. More details can be obtained directly from the anatomy establishment to which you wish to donate your body.

If you have moved to a new area of the country, but still want to donate your body to the anatomy establishment linked to your old post code, please contact the establishment for more details. Some medical schools may request that your estate contributes to the cost of transporting your body if the donation falls outside of the medical school's local area.

Can I donate my body if I am also on the organ transplant donor register?

People who choose to donate their body or organs do so in the hope that they will be useful to others after their death. Despite being separate donation systems, it is possible for a person to be registered as an organ donor and to have registered their wish to donate their body, after death, to a medical school.

Medical schools will usually decline a body donation if the person has undergone surgery to remove organs for transplantation. However, if after their death, the person is found unsuitable to be an organ donor, then body donation to a medical school can be taken forward by the relatives, solicitor or executor of the will.

If a person wishes to register for both organ donation and body donation, the HTA suggests that the person includes this in their will and ensures that those closest to them are aware of their wishes.

The organ donation register is run by [NHS Blood and Transplant](#).

Are there any limitations or conditions to body donation?

All medical schools welcome the offer of a donation. However, certain medical conditions may lead to the offer being declined. These conditions and any other reasons for a body donation being declined, can be obtained from each medical school.

What happens if my body is not accepted?

If a medical school is unable to accept your donation, they may be able to help you find another school which can accept your body.

However, if no medical school is able to accept your offer, your estate will need to make suitable funeral arrangements.

If I donate my body, will there be a funeral or memorial service?

Medical schools will usually arrange for donated bodies to be cremated, unless the family request the return of the body for a private burial or cremation.

Medical schools may hold a memorial service. Further information can be obtained directly from the medical school.

Can I donate my body to a specific cause or medical school?

Medical schools which accept donated bodies will normally only accept donations from within their local area due to the transport costs involved. Offers of body donation from outside the area may be accepted on the condition that the donor's estate bears the cost of transporting the body. Full details can be obtained directly from the medical school.

Several medical schools are also involved in research requiring donated bodies. Your local school will be able to advise you of this.

Alternatively, the following human tissue banks accept brain and spinal tissue for research into specific medical conditions. As well as needing particular types of tissue from people with the conditions named below, they also accept donations of brain and spinal tissue from people without these conditions.

- **London Neurodegenerative Diseases Brain Bank**
Tel: 020 7848 0290
- **Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Tissue Bank**
Tel: 020 7594 9734
Tel for outside office hours: 07659 132045
- **Parkinson's Disease Tissue Bank**
Tel: 020 7594 9732
Tel for outside office hours: 07659 104537
- **Brain Bank for Autism and Related Developmental Research, Oxford University**

Tel: 0800 089 0707

Are there any costs or payments involved?

You will not receive any payment for donating your body.

Some medical schools may request that the donor's estate contribute to the cost of transporting the body, particularly if the donation falls outside of the medical school's local area. Full details can be obtained directly from the medical school.

Contact details for medical schools (by postcode)

First two letters of the postcode	Area	Contact
AB	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
AL	CAMBRIDGE	Lynn Haythorpe - Tel: 01223 333776
B	BIRMINGHAM	Jean Brooks - Tel: 0121 414 6811
BA	BRISTOL	Janet Skinner - Tel: 0117 928 8137
BB	LIVERPOOL	Dee Tully - Tel: 0151 794 5442
BD	LEEDS	Sarah Wilson - Tel: 0113 343 4297
BH	SOUTHAMPTON	Hayley Rawlings - Tel: 023 80 795763
BL	MANCHESTER	Pamela Hall - Tel: 0161 275 5241
BN	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
BR	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
BS	BRISTOL	Janet Skinner - Tel: 0117 928 8137
BT	BELFAST	Tel: 028 9097 2131
CA	LEEDS	Sarah Wilson - Tel: 0113 343 4297
CB	CAMBRIDGE	Lynn Haythorpe - Tel: 01223 333776
CF	CARDIFF	Swaran Yarnell or his Assistant Lisa Mead – 02920 874370
CH	LIVERPOOL	Dee Tully - Tel: 0151 794 5442
CM	CAMBRIDGE	Lynn Haythorpe - Tel: 01223 333776
CO	CAMBRIDGE	Lynn Haythorpe - Tel: 01223 333776
CR	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
CT	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
CV	LEICESTER	Lynda Langford - Tel: 0116 252 3082
CW	KEELE	Fliss Dunn - Tel: 01782 584690
DA	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
DD	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
DE	NOTTINGHAM	Alison Bexon - Tel: 0115 823 0143
DG	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
DH	NEWCASTLE	Linda Dudley - 0191 222 6616
DL	NEWCASTLE	Linda Dudley - 0191 222 6616
DN1 - 13	SHEFFIELD	Jane Collins or Wendy Howard - Tel:0114 222 4642
DN14 - 37	HULL	Jackie Houlton - Tel: 01482 464750
DT	SOUTHAMPTON	Hayley Rawlings - Tel: 023 80 795763
DY	BIRMINGHAM	Jean Brooks - Tel: 0121 414 6811
E	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
EC	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
EH	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
EN	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
EX	BRISTOL	Janet Skinner - Tel: 0117 928 8137
FK	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
FY	LIVERPOOL	Dee Tully - Tel: 0151 794 5442
G	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
GL	BRISTOL	Janet Skinner - Tel: 0117 928 8137
GU	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
HA	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
HD	LEEDS	Sarah Wilson - Tel: 0113 343 4297
HG	LEEDS	Sarah Wilson - Tel: 0113 343 4297
HP	CAMBRIDGE	Lynn Haythorpe - Tel: 01223 333776
HR	BIRMINGHAM	Jean Brooks - Tel: 0121 414 6811
HU	HULL	Jackie Houlton - Tel: 01482 464750
HX	LEEDS	Sarah Wilson - Tel: 0113 343 4297
IG	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196

IM	LIVERPOOL	Dee Tully - Tel: 0151 794 5442
IP	CAMBRIDGE	Lynn Haythorpe - Tel: 01223 333776
IV	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
KA	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
KT	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
KW	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
KY	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
L	LIVERPOOL	Dee Tully - Tel: 0151 794 5442
LA	LIVERPOOL	Dee Tully - Tel: 0151 794 5442
LD	CARDIFF	Swaran Yarnell or his Assistant Lisa Mead – 02920 874370
LE	LEICESTER	Lynda Langford - Tel: 0116 252 3082
LL	KEELE	Fliss Dunn - Tel: 01782 584690
LN	NOTTINGHAM	Alison Bexon - Tel: 0115 823 0143
LS	LEEDS	Sarah Wilson - Tel: 0113 343 4297
LU	CAMBRIDGE	Lynn Haythorpe - Tel: 01223 333776
M	MANCHESTER	Pamela Hall - Tel: 0161 275 5241
ME	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
MK	LEICESTER	Lynda Langford - Tel: 0116 252 3082
ML	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
N	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
NE	NEWCASTLE	Linda Dudley - 0191 222 6616
NG	NOTTINGHAM	Alison Bexon - Tel: 0115 823 0143
NN	LEICESTER	Lynda Langford - Tel: 0116 252 3082
NP	CARDIFF	Swaran Yarnell or his Assistant Lisa Mead – 02920 874370
NR	CAMBRIDGE	Lynn Haythorpe - Tel: 01223 333776
NW	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
OL	MANCHESTER	Pamela Hall - Tel: 0161 275 5241
OX	OXFORD	Natalie Watkins - Tel: 01865 272181
PA	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
PE (Cambs & Norfolk)	CAMBRIDGE	Lynn Haythorpe - Tel: 01223 333776
PE (Not Cambs & Norfolk)	LEICESTER	Lynda Langford - Tel: 0116 252 3082
PH	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
PL	BRISTOL	Janet Skinner - Tel: 0117 928 8137
PO	SOUTHAMPTON	Hayley Rawlings- Tel: 023 80 795763
PR	LIVERPOOL	Dee Tully - Tel: 0151 794 5442
RG	OXFORD	Natalie Watkins - Tel: 01865 272181
RH	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
RM	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
S	SHEFFIELD	Jane Collins or Wendy Howard - Tel:0114 222 4642
SA	CARDIFF	Swaran Yarnell or his Assistant Lisa Mead - 02920 874370
SE	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
SG	CAMBRIDGE	Lynn Haythorpe - Tel: 01223 333776
SK (10 - 11 - 17)	KEELE	Fliss Dunn - Tel: 01782 584690
SK (All but 10 - 11 - 17)	MANCHESTER	Pamela Hall - Tel: 0161 275 5241
SL	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
SM	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
SN	OXFORD	Natalie Watkins - Tel: 01865 272181
SO	SOUTHAMPTON	Hayley Rawlings - Tel: 023 80 795763
SP	SOUTHAMPTON	Hayley Rawlings - Tel: 023 80 795763
SR	NEWCASTLE	Linda Dudley - 0191 222 6616
SS	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
ST	KEELE	Fliss Dunn - Tel: 01782 584690
SW	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
SY (English Counties/Powys)	BIRMINGHAM	Jean Brooks - Tel: 0121 414 6811

SY (Other Welsh Counties)	CARDIFF	Swaran Yarnell or his Assistant Lisa Mead - 02920874370
TA	BRISTOL	Janet Skinner - Tel: 0117 928 8137
TD	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
TF	KEELE	Fliss Dunn - Tel: 01782 584690
TN	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
TQ	BRISTOL	Janet Skinner - Tel: 0117 928 8137
TR	BRISTOL	Janet Skinner - Tel: 0117 928 8137
TS	NEWCASTLE	Linda Dudley - 0191 222 6616
TW	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
UB	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
W	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
WA	LIVERPOOL	Dee Tully - Tel: 0151 794 5442
WC	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
WD	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
WF	LEEDS	Sarah Wilson - Tel: 0113 343 4297
WN	LIVERPOOL	Dee Tully - Tel: 0151 794 5442
WR	BIRMINGHAM	Jean Brooks - Tel: 0121 414 6811
WS	KEELE	Fliss Dunn - Tel: 01782 584690
WV	BIRMINGHAM	Jean Brooks - Tel: 0121 414 6811
YO	HULL	Jackie Houlton - Tel: 01482 464750
ZE	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184

Contact details for medical schools (by region)

Brighton and Sussex, Imperial College London, Kings College London, Queen Mary University of London, St George's University of London, University College London and the Royal College of Surgeons of England

Contact: Louise Evans, Anatomy Donations Co-ordinator

Tel: 020 8725 5196

lao@sgul.ac.uk

University of Birmingham

Department of Anatomy

Vincent Drive

Edgbaston

B15 2TT

Contact: Jean Brooks

Tel: 0121 414 6811

j.s.brooks@bham.ac.uk

University of Bristol

Comparative Morphology Centre

Southwell Street

Bristol

BS2 8EJ

Contact: Janet Skinner

Tel: 0117 928 8137

janet.a.skinner@bristol.ac.uk

University of Cambridge

Department of Anatomy
Downing Street
CB2 3DY
Contact: Lynn Haythorpe
Tel: 01223 333776
Leh42@cam.ac.uk

Cardiff University

Cardiff School of Biosciences
Museum Avenue
Cardiff
CF10 3US
Contact: Swaran Yarnell or his Assistant Lisa Mead
Tel: 02920 874370
yarnellsg@cardiff.ac.uk meadl1@cardiff.ac.uk

Hull York Medical School

The University of Hull
Hull
HU6 7RX
Contact: Jackie Houlton
Tel: 01482 464750
Jackie.houlton@hyms.ac.uk

Keele University

School of Medicine Anatomy Facility
Staffordshire
ST5 5BG
Contact: Fliss Dunn
Tel: 01782 584690
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University of Leeds

Faculty of Biomedical Sciences
Leeds
LS2 9JT
Contact: Sarah Wilson
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Leicester University

Department of Medical and Social Care Education
Faculty of Medicine
PO BOX 138
University Road
Leicester
LE1 9HN
Contact: Lynda Langford
Tel: 0116 252 3082
l194@le.ac.uk

University of Liverpool

Department of Human Anatomy & Cell Biology
Sherrington Buildings
Ashton Street
Liverpool
L69 3GE
Contact: Dee Tully
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dmtully@liverpool.ac.uk

University of Manchester

Faculty of Life Sciences
1.124 Stopford Building
Oxford Road
M13 9PT
Contact: Pamela Hall
Tel: 0161 275 5241
Pamela.hall@manchester.ac.uk

Newcastle University

School of Medical Education Development
Anatomy and Clinical Skills
Framlington Place
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE2 4HH
Contact: Linda Dudley
Tel: 0191 222 6616
l.a.dudley@ncl.ac.uk

University of Nottingham

School of Biomedical Sciences
Medical School
Queens Medical Centre
Nottingham
NG7 2UH
Contact: Alison Bexon
Tel: 0115 823 0143
alison.bexon@nottingham.ac.uk

University of Oxford

Department of Human Anatomy and Genetics
South Parks Road
Oxford
OX1 3QX
Contact: Natalie Watkins
Tel: 01865 272181
bequests@dpag.ox.ac.uk

University of Sheffield

The Medical Teaching Unit
Department of Biomedical Science
Addison Building
Western Bank
Sheffield
S10 2TN

Contact: Jane Collins or Wendy Howard

Tel: 0114 222 4642

j.collins@sheffield.ac.uk or w.howard@sheffield.ac.uk

University of Southampton

Centre for Learning Anatomical Sciences
Division of Medical Education
Mailpoint 845
Level B South Academic Block
Southampton General Hospital
Tremona Road
SO16 6YD

Contact: Hayley Rawlings

Tel: 023 80 795763

H.Rawlings@southampton.ac.uk

Queen's University Belfast

Division of Basic Medical Sciences/Anatomy School of Medicine and Dentistry
Whitla Medical Building
97 Lisburn Road
Belfast
BT9 7BL
Tel: 028 9097 2131
anatomy@qub.ac.uk

The HTA does not regulate medical schools in Scotland. If you wish to enquire about donating your body to a medical school in Scotland, please contact:

Richard Dimelow
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St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG
Tel: 0131 244 5184
richard.dimelow@scotland.gsi.gov.uk