

UoBANAT2



University of
BRISTOL

**Donating your body
to the
Centre for Comparative
and Clinical Anatomy
University of Bristol**

Bequest Office
Centre for Comparative and Clinical
Anatomy
University of Bristol
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Information on donating your body

Thank you for expressing your wish to bequeath your body to us after death; your generous action is greatly appreciated.

Detailed instructions are enclosed including answers to the following:

- 1. What will my body be used for?**
- 2. Notes for completion of Bequest Form (UoBANAT1)**
- 3. General information for the person with responsibility for the body after death**
- 4. Instructions for the person with responsibility for the body after death**

It is important that you understand all the information before signing the form. If you need any further information please contact us on the adjacent number.

We hope it is many years before your wishes have to be considered.

1. What will my body be used for?

Your body may be used for one or more of the following purposes.

❖ ***Anatomical Examination***

Teaching, studying or researching into the form, shape and structure of the human body. This allows us to use your body for teaching anatomy to medical, dental students and related health care professionals and students on authorised courses.

❖ ***Education or Training related to human health***

Health professionals derive great benefit from the opportunity to develop surgical skills and other clinical procedures on a body. We run and support courses that develop and further clinical and surgical skills.

❖ ***Research in connection with disorders, or the functioning of the human body***

Our Centre has particular research interests in several fields, details of which can be found on our website at www.bris.ac.uk/depts/anatomy. Should you require more information please ring the Bequest Office on 0117 9287415 during office hours. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee that your body will be used in a particular project.

2. Notes on completing the Bequest Form

If you wish to bequeath your body you should sign the enclosed Bequest Form UoBANAT1 in the presence of a witness and return to the Bequest Office. We will return a copy of the Bequest Form to you which we advise you to keep with this information booklet. It is advisable to inform your relatives, executor and doctor of your intention to donate.

Option 1

There is no restriction on the length of time a donated body can be used by us. This gives us the maximum possible use of your body for the three purposes.

Option 2

If you wish to restrict the time that your body can be used, you have an opportunity to do so with this option as we will cremate your body after three years. No parts will be retained.

Option 2a

We will cremate your body after three years, but this option will give us the opportunity to retain parts of your body that are extremely valuable in our teaching and research.

Please ensure the form is signed and dated in the presence of your witness otherwise it will not provide valid consent for acceptance of your body for Anatomical Examination, Education, Training and Research.

3. General Information for the person with responsibility for the body after death

The Bequest Office is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. There is a voice mail system at the office and relatives should leave their name and telephone number as a recorded message so that we can deal with it promptly. The offer of the bequest will be considered immediately the office re-opens.

During the major public holidays at Christmas, New Year and Easter the Bequest Office is closed, and as such is unable to accept bodies. During these times, next of kin are advised to make arrangements for a funeral.

Before acceptance of the bequest the person with responsibility for the body should:

1. Telephone the Bequest Office as soon as possible after death occurs. The death must be registered with the local Registrar from whom a Death Certificate and a Disposal Certificate should be obtained.
2. If the body lies in a hospital it will be held in the hospital mortuary whilst we make our enquires. Once informed of the death we will liaise with their Bereavement Office.
3. If the body is at home or at a nursing home it should be removed to a local Chapel of Rest by an undertaker of your choice whilst we make our enquires regarding the suitability of the bequeathal. It is important for the relatives

to understand that the transport and cost of the undertaker must be borne by the next of kin or the donor's estate.

Once enquiries have been completed and the bequest accepted, we arrange and pay for transportation to the University of Bristol from within a radius of 25 miles. (Outside the 25 mile radius undertaker's transport costs are charged to the person with responsibility for the body). Details of costs can be obtained from the Bequest Office.

The University will be responsible for the preservation and examination of the body until such time as cremation is required. This will depend upon which option has been specified on the Bequest Form by the donor. The person with responsibility for the body will be informed by letter once the Cremation has taken place at which time they will be offered the opportunity to collect the ashes of the deceased, should they so wish. All cremation expenses will be borne by the University.

An interdenominational Service of Thanksgiving of those who have donated their bodies is held annually. Details may be obtained from the Bequest Office.

Regrettably it is not always possible to accept a bequest. Among other considerations, the cause of death itself or a post mortem examination could have made the body unsuitable for anatomical examination/research purposes, the object of which is the study of the normal structure of the body. At certain times we may not be able to accept bequests due to operational considerations. If the donation cannot be accepted, responsibility for burial or cremation rests with the person with responsibility for the body.

Certain medical conditions or circumstances may also preclude us accepting a donation. These include:

- Transmissible disease: for example, Hepatitis, HIV, Septicaemia
- Dementia/Alzheimer's
- Size: Excessive weight or height
- Organs donated for transplantation: however you can donate the corneas of your eyes and still donate your body for anatomical examination.

If the body is not suitable for donation the person with responsibility for the body will be informed as soon as possible so they may make funeral arrangements.

No guarantee can be given that a bequest will be accepted

4. Instructions for person with responsibility for the body when the donor dies

You should read the previous information carefully and then telephone The Bequest Office, Centre for Comparative and Clinical Anatomy, University of Bristol, Southwell Street, Bristol, BS2 8EJ on 0117 9287415. We will require the following information:

- Evidence of donor's consent
- Doctor's name and telephone number
- Location of the deceased
- Contact details for the person with responsibility for the body

The Bequest Office will contact the deceased's GP to establish cause of death and together they will make a decision on whether the donation is acceptable. You will be informed within a short time about the decision.

If the donation is accepted

- Register the death with the Registrar and tell him/her of the wishes of the deceased. He/she will issue you with a green certificate (Certificate of Burial or Cremation).
- You will be sent Cremation 1 (Application for Cremation form) from this Office. This calls for a final decision on cremation arrangements.
- Return Cremation 1 (Application of Cremation), the certificate of disposal issued by the Registrar and a copy of the death certificate to the Bequest Office, Centre for Comparative and Clinical Anatomy, University of Bristol, Southwell Street, Bristol, BS2 8EJ. Receipt of these documents is a condition of our acceptance. If we do not receive these documents within 14 days of registration of the death we will be required to decline the bequest.

If the donation is not accepted

Proceed with normal arrangements for burial or cremation. It is regretted that the Centre cannot make any financial contribution to these private arrangements.

