



SYNTHESYS+ Transnational and Virtual Access Calls **now open and deadlines extended**

SYNTHESYS+ is pleased to announce two open calls for Access to European natural science collections, funded via the SYNTHESYS+ project under the current European Commission's Horizon 2020-funded Integrating Activities programme.



1. **Transnational Access Call 3: Funding available to undertake short research visits at 21 partner institutions**

SYNTHESYS Access funding provides researchers with funding support to undertake short visits to utilise the infrastructure (comprising the collections, staff expertise and analytical facilities) at one or more of the 21 partner institutions (see full list below) for the purposes of their research. Since 2004, the SYNTHESYS programme has supported over 52,000 days of research activity across 4,000 separate projects, generating over 5,000 publications including books, monographs, peer-reviewed papers and theses.

Transnational Access Call 3 NEW deadline: 7th May, 2021 (17.00 UK time).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we appreciate that both international travel and institutional access are restricted therefore if your application is successful the proposed visit dates may be delayed. As well as successful Call 3 visits, we hope that delayed Call 1 and 2 visits will take place later this year and successful applicants who have not yet had their visit should please check the News page for updates: <https://www.synthesys.info/news-events.html>.

2. **Virtual Access Call 2: Digitisation on demand from collections at 20 partner institutions**

Researching a collection often requires being physically present in the collection itself. Virtual Access aims to remove the reliance on physical access and trial an industry-first 'digitisation on demand' model. It gives researchers an opportunity to propose and make the case for a collection or collection item(s) to be digitised by the holding institution for the wider benefit of the global research community.

Virtual Access Call 2 NEW deadline: 11th June, 2021 (17.00 UK time). Deadline for contacting VA coordinators: **14th May 2021.**

[MORE DETAILS + APPLY HERE](#)

We are using a new online portal for applications this year: the European Loans and Visits System (ELViS), currently being developed through SYNTHESYS+ Joint Research Activities. Whilst we do not anticipate any problems, this will be the first time ELViS has been used for simultaneous Transnational and Virtual Access calls so we advise you apply in good time before the deadline.

Taxonomic Access Facilities (TAFs)

The 21 partner institutions are organised into 13 national TAFs. TAF users will be hosted by a TAF staff member (host). The 13 TAFs represent an unparalleled resource for taxonomic research offering:

- collections amounting to over 490 million natural history specimens
- internationally renowned taxonomic and systematic skill base
- Facilities including molecular, imaging and chemical analysis

For **Transnational Access**: proposals for funding are welcomed from high-calibre researchers in any discipline seeking access for short-term research visits (average duration 15 days). SYNTHESYS is able to meet costs for:

- Research costs (bench fees and laboratory consumables)
- International travel & local accommodation while based at the TAF
- A per diem contribution towards living costs

For **Virtual Access**: proposals for funding are welcomed from user groups in any discipline seeking digital data from our natural science collections. Data will be made openly available to the global research community.

See www.synthesys.info for more information on both Calls or contact synthesys@nhm.ac.uk

SYNTHESYS+ TAFs:

AT-TAF Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna

BE-TAF Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels; Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tervuren; Meise Botanic Garden

CZ-TAF Národní Muzeum, Prague

DE-TAF Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin; Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum, Berlin; Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung, Frankfurt, Dresden, Görlitz, Müncheberg, Tübingen and Wilhelmshaven; Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Stuttgart; Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig, Bonn

DK-TAF The Natural History Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen

ES-TAF Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales & Real Jardín Botánico Naturales (CSIC), Madrid

FI-TAF LUOMUS Finnish Museum of Natural History, Helsinki

FR-TAF Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris

GB-TAF Natural History Museum, London (*The NHM is currently preparing for the development of an ambitious new science and digitisation centre. Visitor access to some collections and facilities may be temporarily affected, but we do not currently anticipate any impact to visitor access for this SYNTHESYS+ call. Latest information <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/harwell.html>*); Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh

HU-TAF Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest

IL-TAF National Natural History Collections of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

NL-TAF Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden (*offering Transnational Access only; not Virtual Access*)

SE-TAF Naturhistoriska riksmuseet, Stockholm

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