

# UBC ARC Chinook Allocation Application Guidelines

*Version 1.0.0*

**ARC** Advanced  
Research  
Computing



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

# UBC ARC Chinook Allocation Application Guidelines

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose of Guidelines

The purpose of this document is to provide applicants for the UBC Advanced Research Computing (ARC) Chinook (hereinafter “Chinook”) platform information on eligibility requirements, the review process, and on how to apply. In addition, applicants and awardees should always consult [UBC ARC Chinook Terms of Service](#) and application standards and policies, as are hosted on [ARC Governance Documents](#). User documentation for the platform is available at [UBC ARC Technical User Documentation](#).

These guidelines are updated periodically, so please ensure to reference the current version. The most recent version is always available on the [UBC ARC Chinook web site](#).

### 1.2 Objectives

Chinook provides UBC researchers access to an on-premise 5 petabyte (PB) of redundant object storage platform, designated for large-scale research data storage, beginning in the fall of 2020. Object storage manages data and associated metadata as objects rather than in a traditional file hierarchy. Access to Chinook is prioritized for those who are not able to access or have maximized their access to national infrastructures (e.g., [Compute Canada](#), etc.). Specific objectives are to:

- Support early career researchers (i.e., five years or fewer in a Faculty position),
- Enable new to UBC faculty (i.e., five years of fewer at UBC), and
- Provide object storage to Faculty who have controlled or sensitive data sets that are not permitted to be hosted off-site (i.e., under the governance of [UBC Chief Information Officer and Chief Information Security Officer](#)).

### 1.3 Description of Chinook Platform

Chinook is an object storage system, designed to significantly increase UBC’s storage capacity and supplement the storage resources available through the national platform, in order to meet the immediate needs of UBC researchers. The Chinook platform can be used to retain and retrieve portions of large research datasets composed of files and unstructured data, such as short or medium term archives, collection and aggregation of results, copies of valuable datasets, staging of reference datasets, or nearline storage. Chinook easily integrates with [UBC ARC Sockeye](#), UBC ARC’s high-performance computing cluster, for fast and convenient data transfer to the compute platform.

Chinook storage is accessed via [Globus](#) for data transfer and data sharing. Globus is a high-performance research data management platform that can be used for:

- High-speed, reliable data transfer between Chinook and computational resources such as [UBC ARC Sockeye](#), all Compute Canada sites and many other international advanced research computing centres and organizations.

- Data transfers between Chinook and a local computer (e.g., laptop, desktop, server, etc.).
- Securely sharing data stored on Chinook with researchers in another research group, and/or at other institutions.
- Automating data transfers between any of the above.

Data transfers happen unattended, data verification is on by default, and transmission encryption is enforced for all data transfers to/from Chinook.

#### 1.4 DRAC

The UBC Digital Research Infrastructure (DRI) Resource Allocation Committee (DRAC) makes recommendations to the Vice-President Research & Innovation (VPRI), and the Associate Vice-President Information Technology (AVPIT) & Chief Information Officer (CIO) on the impact, value, and appropriateness of the UBC Advanced Research Computing Digital Research Infrastructure storage and compute resource allocation processes. The VPRI and AVPIT & CIO will consult with the ARC Advisory Committee on the recommended processes and, as needed, approve processes for implementation. The DRAC also adjudicates proposals for resources, ensuring resource distributions are fair and equitable, and based on technical and scientific criteria.

#### 1.5 Suitability

Chinook is well suited for sizeable data that can be stored in a flat-like structure. This storage groups the data with metadata and should not be utilized for frequent inputs and outputs nor as a permanent archival system. It permits fast retrieval and greater capacity of analytics as the metadata is customizable rather than limited by file structure or block structures.

## 2. Eligibility Requirements

At the time of submission of the Chinook application, the applicant must hold a Faculty position at UBC or be a Principal Investigator as defined by UBC:

- Faculty, for this purpose, is defined as holding the position of professor, associate professor, assistant professor, professor of teaching, senior instructor, instructor at the UBC Vancouver campus or UBC Okanagan campus.
- Principal Investigators (PIs) are defined as a researcher who has responsibility for the ethical conduct of the study, and for the actions of any member of the research team at a local site. This person has been deemed a Principal Investigator by an UBC affiliated institution or a Dean.

Applicants who are PIs on a UBC held award and **do not** hold a Faculty position must contact ARC at [arc.support@ubc.ca](mailto:arc.support@ubc.ca) in order to apply for access to Chinook.

Researchers who do not qualify as Faculty or PI, such as students, postdoctoral fellows, etc., are not eligible to apply for an allocation on Chinook. However, applicants awarded a Chinook allocation can request external collaborators, staff, and/or students be given access as a user. There is no limit as to how many users may have access to an allocation. Users must have an institutional email address (i.e., not commercial services such as

Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo, etc.) and have an enhanced Campus Wide Login. For more information on Campus Wide Login sponsorship, please visit UBC IT [About Campus Wide Login](#).

## 3. Allocations

### 3.1 About Allocations

Each applicant can only apply for one Chinook allocation. The awarded applicant, known as the Allocation Owner, always has access to all data associated with an allocation. Allocations are only given for the purpose of research and cannot be used for non-research related activities.

There is no option for sub-allocation division or permission specification. Exceptions can be made for specific cases where data agreements are in place that mandate data access restrictions. This can be accommodated following a consultation with ARC to ensure compliance to data management requirements. Please contact [arc.support@ubc.ca](mailto:arc.support@ubc.ca) for additional instructions and information on this.

The Allocation Owner that only involves the storage of low or medium risk information, as identified by [UBC Information Security Standard #01, Security Classification of UBC Electronic Information](#), will be granted access to independently manage the access and sharing of the data. Any allocation that includes the storage of high or very high risk information must have all data sharing managed by UBC ARC.

Users activity may be logged including all connection attempts, connection details, and any file transfers. Logs may be stored both on premise and on the Globus platform on servers in the United States of America

### 3.2 Duration

Allocations are offered for one year's term, at which point the Allocation Owner will be asked to renew or end the allocation.

Allocations that are under-utilized will be notified prior to one year of access to confirm that the storage space is still needed. If at any time the platform capacity becomes under stress, Allocation Owners may have their allocation quota reduced if unused. This would not impact active allocations, but may influence future or renewal applications.

## 4. How to Apply

The application process for Chinook requires the submission of an online application. Chinook Allocation applications can be submitted at any time. Check the [Chinook website](#) for details.

## 5. Review Process

All applications must undergo a technical review. Applications for substantial storage allocations will require additional details to demonstrate the need for large storage asks. Consultations with ARC may be requested to assist determining reasonable storage size to support the research team. Large storage requests will be sent to DRAC for review.

### 5.1 Technical Review

All applications for resource allocation on Chinook are subject to a technical review by ARC. The technical review assesses the technical feasibility of the request to ensure it is suitable for the platform. There is no evaluation of the merit of the project, the nature of the research group, or the resources requested.

### 5.2 DRAC Review

Even though DRAC will not review applications based on scientific merit, applications may be subject to an additional review process by the committee. This is requested in order to ensure an equitable balance between the research priorities supported by the Chinook mandate.

### 5.3 Final Decision

All decisions regarding allocations are final. There is no appeals process; however, applicants are welcome to apply for subsequent calls when applicable.

## 6. Administration of Allocations

### 6.1 Allocation Finalization

Successful applicants will be notified and must either accept or withdraw their application by the deadline specified in notice of award.

### 6.2 Allocation Setup

Successful applicants will be contacted following the evaluation and additional information required to activate their allocation will be requested.

### 6.3 Early Withdrawal

The Allocation Owner should notify ARC Support as soon as possible if they no longer require allocated resources. This will allow other researchers to make use of the resources.

### 6.4 Communications

All communications related to allocation applications will be sent to both the applicant and their designate (if specified) via their UBC institutional email address provided in the application.