



OpenSpecimen at a Glance

OpenSpecimen is the university's central system for managing and tracking research specimens and collections. It's designed to help labs, research groups, and collections of all sizes securely store, organise, and share specimen data in a consistent, easy-to-use platform.

OpenSpecimen also makes it easy for researchers to manage and register specimens in **participant-centric studies**, where the focus is on tracking samples linked to individual participants over time.

With OpenSpecimen, researchers can:

- **Register specimens directly to participants** using unique identifiers, ensuring accurate linkage between biospecimens and participant data.
- **Track longitudinal collections**, such as multiple timepoints or follow-up visits, which is essential for clinical trials and cohort studies.

Who is OpenSpecimen for?

- **Research Labs** collecting biological samples (like blood, tissue, DNA)
- **Archaeology, Anthropology & Palaeontology** managing artefacts and fossils
- **Environmental Scientists** handling soil, water, or plant specimens
- **Biobanks and Core Facilities** that store and distribute samples
- Anyone involved in **specimen collection, storage, analysis, or sharing**

Why use OpenSpecimen?

- ✓ **Provides a unified platform** for researchers to maintain a comprehensive and consistent audit trail of all specimen-related activities.
- ✓ **Enhances data security** by consolidating specimen information currently scattered across multiple systems (e.g. Excel, OneNote, paper records) into a secure, centralised environment.
- ✓ **Improves incident response** by enabling quick identification of specimens stored in specific containers (e.g. freezers) and highlighting available alternative storage locations in the event of an outage or technical issue.
- ✓ **Supports granular access control** through user roles and permissions, ensuring appropriate data access based on user responsibilities.
- ✓ **Facilitates advanced specimen discovery** with powerful querying capabilities, allowing researchers to locate specimens based on type, condition, donor characteristics, and other key attributes.
- ✓ **Reduces institutional risk** by ensuring that specimen data is captured in a standardised and verifiable format, helping to meet potential insurance requirements in the event of specimen loss or damage.
- ✓ **Aligns with industry best practices**, as many leading universities and research institutions globally are adopting OpenSpecimen to modernise and streamline their biobanking operations.