



Bioinformatics Training Series | Frequently Asked Questions

What is this training series?

[QCIF Digital Research](#) is delivering four bioinformatics workshops and two drop-in support sessions to researchers and HDR students at the John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU. The workshops progress from introductory R for genomics through to advanced single-cell and spatial transcriptomics analysis.

Schedule

Date	Time (AEST)	Workshop (online via Zoom)	Level
2026-07-27	13:00-17:00	Data Analysis with R for Genomics Day 1 [Register both days]	novice
2026-07-28	13:00-17:00	Data Analysis with R for Genomics Day 2	novice
2026-08-03	13:00-17:00	RNA Seq Analysis with R Day 1 [Register both days]	intermediate
2026-08-04	13:00-17:00	RNA Seq Analysis with R Day 2	intermediate
2026-08-17	14:00-16:00	Drop-In session [Register]	
2026-08-25	13:00-17:00	Single-cell RNA-Seq Analysis Using R Day 1 [Register both days]	advanced
2026-08-26	13:00-17:00	Single-cell RNA-Seq Analysis Using R Day 2	advanced
2026-08-31	13:00-17:00	Spatial transcriptomics Day 1 [Register both days]	advanced
2026-09-01	13:00-17:00	Spatial transcriptomics Day 2	advanced
2026-09-07	14:00-16:00	Drop-In session [Register]	

When does registration close?

Registration for each workshop closes two days before it runs.

Do I need to attend the workshops in order?

We recommend attending in the sequence above, as each workshop builds on skills covered in the previous one. Data Analysis with R for Genomics includes an introduction to R and RStudio, and this grounding is assumed by RNA-Seq, Single-Cell and Spatial Transcriptomics. If you already have R experience from elsewhere, you do not need to attend Data Analysis with R for Genomics first, but you should still be comfortable with R basics, tidyverse/dplyr data wrangling and reading genomics file formats such as FASTQ and VCF before attending RNA-Seq.

What if I cannot attend Data Analysis with R for Genomics?

If you are new to R and cannot attend this workshop, QCIF also runs a free introductory seminar, [Getting Started with R and RStudio](#), available on demand. Note this seminar covers R and RStudio fundamentals only (installation, navigating the interface). It does not cover the genomics-specific content in Data Analysis with R for Genomics, such as working with FASTQ/VCF files, dplyr and ggplot2, or Bioconductor packages. If you use this seminar in place of the workshop, you should expect to do some additional self-directed preparation before attending RNA-Seq Analysis with R.

What do I need to install before each session?

R (latest version) [<https://cran.r-project.org/>]. RStudio Desktop [<https://posit.co/download/rstudio-desktop/>]. Zoom, updated to the current version [<https://zoom.us/download>]. Workshop-specific packages will be circulated in the pre-workshop email for each workshop. Installation support is limited on the day, so please install and test everything beforehand.



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What else do I need on the day?

This support is provided online via Zoom, so you will need your own computer and a reliable internet connection sufficient for video conferencing. A second monitor is highly recommended so you can follow instructions and work in RStudio at the same time

Will sessions be recorded?

No. These are live, interactive sessions and are not recorded.

What if I cannot attend a workshop session?

We encourage students to attend all sessions of a workshop, if possible, as each session builds on the previous one. If you know in advance that you will not be able to make a session, please let us know so we can plan numbers accordingly.

How do I ask questions during a workshop?

These are Carpentries-style workshops and asking questions is actively encouraged. Each session has both an instructor and a helper, so you can get support without needing to interrupt the whole group. Use the Zoom chat at any time during the session to ask a question or flag that you require assistance.

What is a drop-in session?

Drop-in sessions are an opportunity to ask questions about the workshop material, work through exercises you need extra assistance with or clarify concepts from earlier sessions. QCIF bioinformaticians will be available to help.

How can I contact the organiser with any questions?

QCIF Skills Development | training@qcif.edu.au

How do I give feedback?

A brief survey link is circulated after each workshop.

Can I get further support from QCIF about my projects?

QCIF provides several engagement models to support researchers in Australia. These include fee-for-service, embedded FTE and a structured mentoring program [[Bioinformatics Accelerator](#)]. Fill in a [request form](#) to book a consultation to discuss your project and the support QCIF can provide.

What other workshops are available?

We offer an extensive catalogue of practical workshops, providing frequent and accessible training in high-demand topics such as programming, statistics, machine learning, data management and bioinformatics. See our [training calendar](#) for our latest offerings.