

Programming in the Life Sciences #2: accounts and API keys



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Abstract

I have outlined the scope of the six-day course: the students will learn to program while hacking on the Open PHACTS' Linked Data API (LDA). The first step is to get an account for the LDA. I have already done that to save time. But these are the steps to take.

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I have outlined the scope of the [six-day course](#): the students will learn to program while hacking on the [Open PHACTS' Linked Data API](#) (LDA). The first step is to get an account for the LDA. I have already done that to save time. But these are the steps to take. You go to <https://dev.openphacts.org/signup>:

 **Open PHACTS**

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Signup

User Information
Username *
Email *
First Name *
Last Name *
Password*
Password confirmation *
Contact Details
Organization/Group
Name *


By signing up you agree to the following Legal Terms and Conditions ([show](#))

Sign up

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You then approve the account via your email account and you are set. The account is needed to get an API key. Using this key, Open PHACTS developers can contact you if your scripts go berserk So, you are kindly invited to make crazy hypotheses and hack the hell out of the platform. That's what I hope my students will do.

To try your new key, go to the documentation page, and open, for example, the *SMILES to URL* method:

SMILES to URL
/structure GET

Description
Returns a ChemSpider URL corresponding to an input SMILES string. Driven by ChemSpider.

Response template:

?primaryTopic chemspider.smiles ?smiles

PARAMETER	VALUE	DESCRIPTION
app_id	<input type="text"/>	Your access application id
app_key	<input type="text"/>	Your access application key
smiles	<input type="text" value="(required)"/>	A SMILES string. E.g. CC(=O)Oc1ccccc1C(=O)O
_format	<input type="text" value="▼"/>	The desired result format.
_callback	<input type="text"/>	For JSONP
_metadata	<input type="text" value="▼"/>	Additional metadata to be included with response.

Send Request

Here you can see what parameters this LDA method has. We focus now on the **app_id** and **app_key** fields. Each account comes by default with a, um, default **app_id** and default **app_key**. Just click on the field and select them:

PARAMETER	VALUE	DESCRIPTION
app_id	<input type="text"/>	Your access app
app_key	<input type="text"/>	First application key from t
smiles	<input type="text" value="(required)"/>	Proprietary Unit Tests 6d9
_format	<input type="text" value="▼"/>	Default 07632cb073eaa8

Select the defaults and enter a SMILES (try: CC(=O)NC1=CC=C(C=C1)O). You can select the format you like (I like Turtle) and you get Linked Data back on this [compound](#).

Now, go explore the LDA methods.