

# Package: rsynthbio (via r-universe)

June 12, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Synthesize Bio API Wrapper

**Version** 4.2.0

**Description** Access Synthesize Bio models from their API <<https://app.synthesize.bio/>> using this wrapper that provides a convenient interface to the Synthesize Bio API, allowing users to generate realistic gene expression data based on specified biological conditions. This package enables researchers to easily access AI-generated transcriptomic data for various modalities including bulk RNA-seq, single-cell RNA-seq, microarray data, and more.

**URL** <https://github.com/synthesizebio/rsynthbio>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/synthesizebio/rsynthbio/issues>

**Imports** getPass, keyring, jsonlite, httr

**Suggests** rmarkdown, knitr, testthat (>= 3.0.2), mockery, arrow

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.3

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Author** Synthesize Bio [aut, cre]

**Maintainer** Synthesize Bio <candace@synthesize.bio>

**Repository** <https://cran.r-universe.dev>

**Date/Publication** 2026-06-12 06:30:02 UTC

**RemoteUrl** <https://github.com/cran/rsynthbio>

**RemoteRef** HEAD

**RemoteSha** 58de692e51164da46a649b14681613a3e7857c25

## Contents

API_BASE_URL . . . . .	2
clear_synthesize_token . . . . .	2
DEFAULT_POLL_INTERVAL_SECONDS . . . . .	3
DEFAULT_POLL_TIMEOUT_SECONDS . . . . .	3
DEFAULT_TIMEOUT . . . . .	4
get_example_query . . . . .	4
has_synthesize_token . . . . .	5
list_models . . . . .	6
load_synthesize_token_from_keyring . . . . .	7
predict_query . . . . .	7
SELF_HOSTED_TIMEOUT . . . . .	9
set_synthesize_token . . . . .	10

<b>Index</b>	<b>11</b>
--------------	-----------

---

API_BASE_URL	<i>API Base URL</i>
--------------	---------------------

---

### Description

Base URL for the Synthesize Bio API

### Usage

API\_BASE\_URL

### Format

An object of class character of length 1.

---

clear_synthesize_token	<i>Clear Synthesize Bio API Token</i>
------------------------	---------------------------------------

---

### Description

Clears the Synthesize Bio API token from the environment for the current R session. This is useful for security purposes when you've finished working with the API or when switching between different accounts.

### Usage

clear\_synthesize\_token(remove\_from\_keyring = FALSE)

**Arguments**

remove\_from\_keyring

Logical, whether to also remove the token from the system keyring if it's stored there. Defaults to FALSE.

**Value**

Invisibly returns TRUE.

**Examples**

```
## Not run:  
# Clear token from current session only  
clear_synthesize_token()  
  
# Clear token from both session and keyring  
clear_synthesize_token(remove_from_keyring = TRUE)  
  
## End(Not run)
```

---

DEFAULT\_POLL\_INTERVAL\_SECONDS

*Default Poll Interval*

---

**Description**

Default polling interval (seconds) for async model queries

**Usage**

DEFAULT\_POLL\_INTERVAL\_SECONDS

**Format**

An object of class `numeric` of length 1.

---

DEFAULT\_POLL\_TIMEOUT\_SECONDS

*Default Poll Timeout*

---

**Description**

Default maximum timeout (seconds) for async model queries

**Usage**

DEFAULT\_POLL\_TIMEOUT\_SECONDS

**Format**

An object of class `numeric` of length 1.

---

DEFAULT_TIMEOUT	<i>Default Timeout</i>
-----------------	------------------------

---

**Description**

Default timeout (seconds) for outbound HTTP requests

**Usage**

DEFAULT\_TIMEOUT

**Format**

An object of class `numeric` of length 1.

---

get_example_query	<i>Get Example Query for Model</i>
-------------------	------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Retrieves an example query structure for a specific model. This provides a template that can be modified for your specific needs.

**Usage**

```
get_example_query(model_id, api_base_url = NULL, self_hosted = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

<code>model_id</code>	Character string specifying the model ID (e.g., "gem-1-bulk", "gem-1-sc").
<code>api_base_url</code>	The base URL for the API server. When <code>NULL</code> (default), it is resolved from the 'SYNTHESIZE_API_BASE_URL' environment variable, falling back to the production default ( <code>API_BASE_URL</code> ). Point this at a self-hosted model container to fetch its example query.
<code>self_hosted</code>	Logical; when <code>TRUE</code> , the request targets a self-hosted container and does not require an API key (one is only sent if set). When <code>NULL</code> (default), it is resolved from the 'SYNTHESIZE_SELF_HOSTED' environment variable (truthy for 1/true/yes/on), defaulting to <code>FALSE</code> .

**Value**

A list representing a valid query structure for the specified model.

## Examples

```
## Not run:
# Get example query for bulk RNA-seq model
query <- get_example_query(model_id = "gem-1-bulk")$example_query

# Get example query for single-cell model
query_sc <- get_example_query(model_id = "gem-1-sc")$example_query

# Modify the query structure
query$inputs[[1]]$num_samples <- 10

# Fetch from a self-hosted container (no API key required)
query <- get_example_query(
  model_id = "gem-1-bulk",
  api_base_url = "https://gem-1-bulk.internal.partner.example",
  self_hosted = TRUE
)$example_query

## End(Not run)
```

---

has\_synthesize\_token *Check if Synthesize Bio API Token is Set*

---

## Description

Checks whether a Synthesize Bio API token is currently set in the environment. Useful for conditional code that requires an API token.

## Usage

```
has_synthesize_token()
```

## Value

Logical, TRUE if token is set, FALSE otherwise.

## Examples

```
## Not run:
# Check if token is set
if (!has_synthesize_token()) {
  # Prompt for token if not set
  set_synthesize_token()
}

## End(Not run)
```

---

list_models	<i>List Available Models</i>
-------------	------------------------------

---

### Description

Returns a list of all models available in the Synthesize Bio API. Each model has a unique ID that can be used with `predict_query()` and `get_example_query()`.

### Usage

```
list_models(api_base_url = NULL, self_hosted = NULL)
```

### Arguments

<code>api_base_url</code>	The base URL for the API server. When NULL (default), it is resolved from the 'SYNTHESIZE_API_BASE_URL' environment variable, falling back to the production default (API_BASE_URL). Point this at a self-hosted model container to list its models.
<code>self_hosted</code>	Logical; when TRUE, the request targets a self-hosted container and does not require an API key (one is only sent if set). When NULL (default), it is resolved from the 'SYNTHESIZE_SELF_HOSTED' environment variable (truthy for 1/true/yes/on), defaulting to FALSE.

### Value

A list or data frame containing available models with their IDs and metadata.

### Examples

```
## Not run:  
# Get all available models  
models <- list_models()  
print(models)  
  
# List models from a self-hosted container (no API key required)  
models <- list_models(  
  api_base_url = "https://gem-1-bulk.internal.partner.example",  
  self_hosted = TRUE  
)  
  
## End(Not run)
```

---

load\_synthesize\_token\_from\_keyring  
*Load Synthesize Bio API Token from Keyring*

---

**Description**

Loads the previously stored Synthesize Bio API token from the system keyring and sets it in the environment for the current session.

**Usage**

```
load_synthesize_token_from_keyring()
```

**Value**

Invisibly returns TRUE if successful, FALSE if token not found in keyring.

**Examples**

```
## Not run:  
# Load token from keyring  
load_synthesize_token_from_keyring()  
  
## End(Not run)
```

---

predict\_query                    *Predict Gene Expression*

---

**Description**

Sends a query to the Synthesize Bio API for prediction and retrieves gene expression samples. This function sends the query to the API and processes the response into usable data frames.

**Usage**

```
predict_query(  
  query,  
  model_id,  
  api_base_url = NULL,  
  poll_interval_seconds = DEFAULT_POLL_INTERVAL_SECONDS,  
  poll_timeout_seconds = DEFAULT_POLL_TIMEOUT_SECONDS,  
  return_download_url = FALSE,  
  raw_response = FALSE,  
  self_hosted = NULL,  
  ...  
)
```

**Arguments**

query	A list representing the query data to send to the API. Use <code>'get_example_query()'</code> to generate an example. The query supports additional optional fields: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <code>'total_count'</code> (integer): Library size used when converting predicted log CPM back to raw counts. Higher values scale counts up proportionally.</li> <li>• <code>'deterministic_latents'</code> (logical): If TRUE, the model uses the mean of each latent distribution instead of sampling, producing deterministic outputs for the same inputs. Useful for reproducibility.</li> <li>• <code>'seed'</code> (integer): Random seed for reproducibility.</li> </ul>
model_id	Character string specifying the model ID (e.g., "gem-1-bulk", "gem-1-sc"). Use <code>'list_models()'</code> to see available models.
api_base_url	The base URL for the API server. When NULL (default), it is resolved in order from the per-model environment variable <code>'SYNTHESIZE_API_BASE_URL__&lt;MODEL&gt;'</code> (e.g. <code>'SYNTHESIZE_API_BASE_URL__GEM_1_BULK'</code> ), then the global <code>'SYNTHESIZE_API_BASE_URL'</code> , then the production default ( <code>API_BASE_URL</code> ). The per-model variable lets you point each self-hosted model at its own container once and omit <code>'api_base_url'</code> on every call.
poll_interval_seconds	Seconds between polling attempts of the status endpoint. Default is <code>DEFAULT_POLL_INTERVAL_SECONDS</code> (2).
poll_timeout_seconds	Maximum total seconds to wait before timing out. Default is <code>DEFAULT_POLL_TIMEOUT_SECONDS</code> (900 = 15 minutes).
return_download_url	Logical, if TRUE, returns a list containing the signed download URL instead of parsing into data frames. Default is FALSE.
raw_response	Logical, if TRUE, returns the raw (unformatted) response from the API without applying any output transformers. For the production path this is the parsed JSON; for <code>'self_hosted = TRUE'</code> it is the parsed Arrow <code>'Table'</code> together with its schema metadata. Default is FALSE.
self_hosted	Logical, if TRUE, sends a single synchronous request to a self-hosted model container that returns predictions as an Apache Arrow IPC stream (no polling, no download URL). Requires the optional <code>'arrow'</code> package and an <code>'api_base_url'</code> pointing at the container. Unlike the production path, no API key is required (one is only sent if configured). When NULL (default), it is resolved from the <code>'SYNTHESIZE_SELF_HOSTED'</code> environment variable (truthy for 1/true/yes/on), defaulting to FALSE.
...	Additional parameters to include in the query body. These are passed directly to the API and validated server-side.

**Value**

A list. For the production path, if `'return_download_url'` is `'FALSE'` (default) the list contains `'metadata'` and `'expression'` data frames; if `'TRUE'` it contains `'download_url'` and empty data frames. For `'self_hosted = TRUE'`, the list contains the transformed data frames (`'metadata'`, `'expression'`, and `'latents'`; plus `'classifier_probs'` for metadata-prediction models) with `'model_version'` and `'request_type'` attached as attributes.

**Examples**

```

# Set your API key (in practice, use a more secure method)
## Not run:

# To start using rsynthbio, first you need to have an account with synthesize.bio.
# Go here to create one: https://app.synthesize.bio/

set_synthesize_token()

# Get available models
models <- list_models()

# Create a query for a specific model
query <- get_example_query(model_id = "gem-1-bulk")$example_query

# Request raw counts
result <- predict_query(query, model_id = "gem-1-bulk")

# Access the results
metadata <- result$metadata
expression <- result$expression

# Explore the top expressed genes in the first sample
head(sort(expression[1, ], decreasing = TRUE))

# Use deterministic latents for reproducible results
query$deterministic_latents <- TRUE
result_det <- predict_query(query, model_id = "gem-1-bulk")

# Specify a custom total count (library size)
query$total_count <- 5000000
result_custom <- predict_query(query, model_id = "gem-1-bulk")

# Self-hosted container returning a synchronous Apache Arrow IPC stream
result_sh <- predict_query(
  query,
  model_id = "gem-1-bulk",
  api_base_url = "https://gem-1-bulk.internal.partner.example",
  self_hosted = TRUE
)

## End(Not run)

```

---

SELF\_HOSTED\_TIMEOUT     *Self-Hosted Timeout*

---

**Description**

Timeout (seconds) for synchronous self-hosted container predictions. These run on the partner's GPU box and can take minutes for large sample counts, so they use a longer timeout than hosted control-plane calls.

**Usage**

```
SELF_HOSTED_TIMEOUT
```

**Format**

An object of class `numeric` of length 1.

---

```
set_synthesize_token  Set Synthesize Bio API Token
```

---

**Description**

Securely prompts for and stores the Synthesize Bio API token in the environment. This function uses `getPass` to securely handle the token input without displaying it in the console. The token is stored in the `SYNTHESIZE_API_KEY` environment variable for the current R session.

**Usage**

```
set_synthesize_token(use_keyring = FALSE, token = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

<code>use_keyring</code>	Logical, whether to also store the token securely in the system keyring for future sessions. Defaults to <code>FALSE</code> .
<code>token</code>	Character, optional. If provided, uses this token instead of prompting. This parameter should only be used in non-interactive scripts.

**Value**

Invisibly returns `TRUE` if successful.

**Examples**

```
# Interactive prompt for token
## Not run:
set_synthesize_token()

# Provide token directly (less secure, not recommended for interactive use)
set_synthesize_token(token = "your-token-here")

# Store in system keyring for future sessions
set_synthesize_token(use_keyring = TRUE)

## End(Not run)
```

# Index

## \* datasets

- API\_BASE\_URL, [2](#)
- DEFAULT\_POLL\_INTERVAL\_SECONDS, [3](#)
- DEFAULT\_POLL\_TIMEOUT\_SECONDS, [3](#)
- DEFAULT\_TIMEOUT, [4](#)
- SELF\_HOSTED\_TIMEOUT, [9](#)

API\_BASE\_URL, [2](#)

clear\_synthesize\_token, [2](#)

DEFAULT\_POLL\_INTERVAL\_SECONDS, [3](#)

DEFAULT\_POLL\_TIMEOUT\_SECONDS, [3](#)

DEFAULT\_TIMEOUT, [4](#)

get\_example\_query, [4](#)

has\_synthesize\_token, [5](#)

list\_models, [6](#)

load\_synthesize\_token\_from\_keyring, [7](#)

predict\_query, [7](#)

SELF\_HOSTED\_TIMEOUT, [9](#)

set\_synthesize\_token, [10](#)