

CORE RESEARCH FACILITIES

Facilities Access Scheme –

Guidelines for applicants

Goals

The Access Scheme directly supports the *University Strategic Plan, Strategy 1: Invest in and drive research excellence across the University.*

The Core Research Facilities User Access Scheme supports the University Research Strategy through provision of small grants to support access to facilities:

- supporting important research that would significantly benefit from use of the core research facilities, which researchers could not otherwise afford to access;
- supporting preliminary/supplementary/additional research related to funded research projects, in order to best leverage the outcomes from awarded grants.

Research projects will be considered for support under the Access Scheme if they satisfy key impact criteria. Types of application scenarios that will be supported include:

- Early-career researchers (ECRs) seeking to achieve results that contribute to the establishment of a research track record in a particular discipline area;
- Mid-career researchers (MCRs) seeking to demonstrate research track record in a particular discipline area;
- A strategic proof-of-concept experiment that will lead to further external funding opportunities and/or collaborations;
- A peak experiment or study that is needed to complete a major work, achieving leverage of research already undertaken;
- A particular strategic imperative that an academic may devise.

Criteria

Participants will be selected according to research quality and merit. All proposals will be considered against the following criteria:

- Quality and potential impact of the research proposed;
- Transformative potential of the award for creating opportunities for the applicant;
- Extent to which the applicant's proposed activities advance Sydney's strategic research goals.

Eligibility

- Users must be University of Sydney employees or employees of a formally affiliated partner of the University (e.g. Centenary Institute, Westmead Research Hub)
- Proposed research projects must not be within the scope of research that has been directly funded – access to support funded research is available at the applicable internal access rates
- Additional work outside the scope of funded research projects, but with the potential to further enhance or leverage funded research, *will* be considered for the Access Scheme
- Research projects supported by the Access Scheme must outline their expected research impact (e.g. papers to be published, other research or commercialisation metrics)
- Preparatory research projects which are likely to lead to further ARC, NHMRC, or other grant funding, and/or paid commercial projects may be prioritised.

Application Process

Researchers must apply directly with each Facility. In the first instance, they should contact the relevant facility to discuss submission of an application form addressing the basic eligibility and selection criteria, as well as any unique criteria used by individual facilities (these may be based on for e.g. the desire to support emerging areas of research within particular fields).

Facilities will advise applicants on the strength of their application, and how these may be improved (if applicable).

Submissions will be made via an *online Access Scheme application form*. The form is available [here](#).

Applications will then be recommended to the Director, Core Research Facilities for approval.

If approved by the Director, CRF and the Facility, successful applicants must then book access using the Facility's management system (e.g. EZBooking or PPMS).

Time limits

Users must redeem their scheme allocation in the calendar year in which it is granted.

Usage caps

Usage caps employed by certain Core Facilities will not apply to Access Scheme projects, as these caps only apply to paid access.