

Advice to ARC & NHMRC applicants 2023



Core Research Facilities

Many research projects will incur costs in terms of training, instrument time, preparation materials and staff input.

The University of Sydney has a number of University-wide Core Research Facilities that provide access to high end infrastructure and services. Each facility has expert staff who provide training and can advise on research design, new data science and techniques to reveal new insights, and equipment use.

This guide shows how to incorporate the costs of accessing the University's Core Research Facilities into ARC and NHMRC applications.

Planning your research needs

Core Research Facilities are funded through a combination of user fees and contributions from user faculties, and where possible, these costs should be planned for and included in the budget of research proposals.

Proposals to funding agencies require detailed costings in their budgets; for example, numbers of samples, estimated analysis hours and justification of why the techniques are needed for the project.

Core Research Facilities are an important part of the research environment that you need to describe in your project and something you need to budget for.

Core Research Facilities

Specific information about instruments, expertise and pricing can be found on the Core Research Facilities website, or by contacting facility staff. Our facilities include:

Research & Prototype Foundry

Clean room, electron beam and laser lithography, nanofabrication, etching, deposition, metrology, and prototyping.

Sydney Analytical

Raman, infrared and X-ray spectroscopy, X-ray diffraction, X-ray and light scattering, magnetic resonance spectroscopy (NMR & EPR), protein production and characterisation, and screening for early-stage drug development. We also assist with experimental design, data collection and analysis, report writing, and provide assistance with finding and using external equipment, including at the Australian Synchrotron.

Sydney Cytometry

Cytometry instrumentation including analysers and cell sorters; experimental design, data acquisition, data analysis and interpretation; development of cytometry techniques and instrumentation.

Sydney Imaging

Clinical and pre-clinical imaging instrumentation, and the Hybrid Theatre; facilities include Artis Pheno C-arm, high field MRI, combined microCT and optical imager, high resolution ultrasound; image processing and analysis.

Sydney Informatics Hub

Artemis High Performance Computer, data science and analytics, Sydney Health Data Coalition, bioinformatics software and consultancy, environmental sensing and modelling, data visualisation, statistical consulting, and research data management.

Sydney Manufacturing Hub

Additive manufacturing and materials processing. Capabilities for design, 3D printing, heat treatment, mechanical and topological characterisation and much more.

Sydney Mass Spectrometry

A wide portfolio of mass spectrometers and data analysis packages for proteomics, glycomics, metabolomics, lipidomics, and mass spectrometry imaging applications; advice and assistance for experimental design, sample preparation and data analysis.

Sydney Microscopy & Microanalysis

Light and electron microscopy, scanning probe, atom probe instruments, X-ray and spectroscopy equipment, image analysis, 3D visualisation and data visualisation software.

Contact us

w sydney.edu.au/facilities

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ARC project costs example

Grant proposals to the ARC must be submitted in their online Research Management System (RMS). For ARC

Discovery Project Applications, for instance, you should include a line item in the 'Project Costs' table (Part E) under 'Other' as shown in image below.

In this example, the project requires access to Sydney Imaging instrumentation in Year 1 - 217 hours of VEVO use @ \$50/ hour plus \$100 for induction and 200 hours use of the PET/MR at \$150/hour plus \$300 for induction. This comes at a total cost of \$41,250 for Year 1 of the project.

The host university maintains substantial infrastructure and the value of this is transmitted to research projects at a level of three times the instrument usage charges to the individual user. Three times the total value requested from the ARC for Imaging usage fees should be added to the Administering Organisation column.

Step 1:

Click on the plus adjacent to the 'Other' row in the table. In the resulting text box, type 'Sydney Imaging Equipment use [plus description]', then press the 'Add Item' button.

Step 2:

Click on the ARC column of the new 'Sydney Imaging equipment' row and enter the required amount, \$41,250 in our example below.

Step 3:



Click on the Administering Organisation In-Kind column and add \$123,750.

Step 4:

Click on additional years and repeat the process.

Please contact facilities directly for information about equipment and services, specific advice about your project and to confirm project costs. [Core Research Facilities fees can be found online.](#)

Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4 Year 5

Description		Australian Research Council	Administering Organisation		Other Eligible Organisation		Partner Organisation	
		Cash	Cash	In-kind	Cash	In-kind	Cash	In-kind
Total		41,250						
Personnel	+							
Teaching Relief	+							
Equipment	+							
Maintenance	+							
Travel	+							
Fieldwork Expenses	+							
Other	+	41,250						
Sydney Imaging Equipment Use - VEVO (225 hrs @ \$50/hr), PET/MR (200 hrs @ \$150/hr)	 	41,250	0	0	0	0	0	0

NHMRC project costs example

Grant proposals to the NHMRC must be submitted in their online Research Grants Management System (RGMS). Applicants should consult with our facilities to ensure that the services they require can be provided and that the charges included in the research budget are accurate.

For NHMRC applications, letters of support from participating facilities (detailing expenses and confirming facility availability) are required to be uploaded as part of each application. Failure to provide a letter of support regarding the proposed research facilities may lead to the reviewing

panel making changes to the budget if the items requested are not adequately justified for the research to be successfully undertaken. Applicants should select 'Yes' from the dropdown menu in the 'Using research facilities' section, and upload CRF support letters in PDF format.

Add your calculated access fees for each year to the corresponding direct research costs and insert the total into the appropriate year box as below. For example, assume \$36,619 of other direct research costs for year 1. The facility access fees total \$41,250 (as per the ARC example). Adding these costs gives a total direct research cost of \$77,869 for Year 1 (\$80,000 when

rounded up to the nearest \$5,000 quantum). This is entered in the relevant year of the RGMS form (Proposed Budget under Part B).

Proceed in a similar manner for each year of the application, with the requested amount adjusted for higher or lower equipment needs, and other direct costs, as required by the different stages of the project.

Please contact facilities directly for information about equipment and services, specific advice about your project and to confirm project costs. [Core Research Facilities fees can be found online.](#)

Hints & Instructions

Additional Information <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/research-grants-management-system-rgms/rgms-training-program>

Hints And Instructions For This Page /niku/nu#action:gm_hints_instructions&odf_view=b_pb_app_budget

General

Item Type Direct Research Costs

Item (50 character limit including spaces)
VEVO and PET/MR equipment use

Budget Data

Year 1 (\$AUD)	<input type="text" value="80000"/>
Year 2 (\$AUD)	<input type="text" value="80000"/>
Year 3 (\$AUD)	<input type="text" value="80000"/>
Year 4 (\$AUD)	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Year 5 (\$AUD)	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>

Justification

Justification (500 character limit including spaces and line breaks.)

= Required = Enter Once

Example 'justification' text for applications

Core Research Facilities at the University of Sydney

The Core Research Facilities are a shared research infrastructure platform run by the University of Sydney. They provide researchers and their partners access to high end research equipment and expertise through our highly skilled technical staff. The investment in purchasing, operating and maintaining equipment is significant to the University with the actual running costs not being reflected in usage fees in order to keep equipment genuinely accessible.

Advanced instruments (microscopy example)

"This research project requires the examination of N samples per week/month/year [as appropriate] with the advanced microscopy and/or microanalysis [as appropriate] technique/s of [specify; e.g. atom probe tomography]. The estimated time required for characterisation of each sample is X hours, at a cost of \$Y per hour of instrument time." You should add further specific explanation of why the chosen technique/s is/are necessary for the research, for example: "Atom probe tomography is a

unique characterisation tool that is able to reveal elemental and structural detail at the atomic scale and is essential for exploring the structure-function relationships in these alloys with nanometre-sized grains" with a reference to further detail elsewhere in the application.

Advanced instruments (mass spectrometry example)

"This research project requires the analysis of N samples per week/month/year [as appropriate] by a discovery/targeted proteomics/metabolomics [as appropriate] technique/s. The estimated time required for characterisation of each sample is X hours, at a cost of \$Y per hour of instrument time." Typical discovery proteomics projects require 24 hrs/sample, whereas a targeted metabolomics project may only require 20 min/sample. You should add further specific explanation of why the chosen technique/s is/are necessary for the research, for example: "The Sciex 6600 Triple TOF coupled with Eksigent 415 UHPLC system and the ProteinPilot SWATH software enables the data independent, label free analysis of complex proteomes" with a reference to further detail elsewhere in the application.

Software, data analysis and expert assistance (bioinformatics example)

"Access to bioinformatics advice and software (CLC Genomics) will be required to analyse the data collected in this research project. This can be obtained through a \$1500 per user annual subscription to the Sydney Informatics Hub at the University of Sydney. The project will use the University of Sydney's high performance computing (HPC) service, which comprises 4264 cores, 136 standard compute nodes, 3 nodes with 6TB of RAM, 5 GPU nodes with 2 GPUs each, 56 Gbps FDR Infinibanc interconnect and a 232 TB Lustre file system. Compute on Artemis is available at no cost to the project. You should add further specific explanation of why the equipment is necessary and how it adds value to your research, for example: "Because of the large amount of next-generation genome sequence data generated in this project it will require both detailed analysis using CLC Genomics workbench and considerable computational power as provided by the new HPC service" with a reference to further detail elsewhere in the applications.