



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

—
**Core Research
Facilities**

CORE RESEARCH FACILITIES

User Access Scheme –

Guidelines for applicants

Goals

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

- supporting access to the core research facilities for important research by researchers could not otherwise afford to access;
- supporting supplementary research related to funded research projects, to best leverage the outcomes from awarded grants.

Criteria

Participants will be selected according to research quality and merit. All eligible 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.

Preference will be given to:

- 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) who have not previously used the facility that are 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;

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 User 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

In the first instance, researchers 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).

Applications should be made via the *online User Access Scheme application form*, available [here](#).

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

Successful applicants can book access using the Facility's management system (e.g. EZBooking or PPMS).

Time limits

Users must redeem their scheme allocation within the 12 months of being awarded.

Consumables

Not all consumables are covered under the Scheme. Please discuss your project with the individual Facilities prior to applying to ensure what consumables are covered under the Scheme.

Usage caps

Usage caps employed by certain Core Facilities will not apply to Scheme projects, as these caps only apply to paid access. Therefore, researchers should apply for the full value of their access requirements, not for the price cap. Access Scheme projects will also not count towards a user's cap value.