

UK Euro-Biolmaging Node - Biological Imaging User Access Application Form

Overview

This form is for UK researchers seeking access to biological imaging technologies and data analysis services through the [UK Node of Euro-Biolmaging](#) or other [Euro-Biolmaging Nodes](#). This funding supports democratised access to advanced bioimaging infrastructure and expertise.

- **Application Deadline:** Rolling basis with evaluation every 4 months

(31 March, 31 July, 30 November) and decisions expected not more than 4 weeks later. For the first round, applications are extended until Tuesday 9 December 2025.
 - **Funding Available:** Up to £5000 at 100% FEC for access to bioimaging hardware or up to £2000 for image analysis services only (maximum funding for applicants without current funding support)
 - **Funding Coverage:** This scheme can cover facility access/instrument time, data scientist time, user consumables, travel costs, accommodation, sample shipment, and other reasonable justified project costs
 - **Eligibility:** [UKRI eligible research organisations](#) within the UK (academic institutions only - industry-based users are not eligible for this funding). Projects at your own home institution (if they are one of the six eligible sites) are not permitted.
 - **Application Limit:** Maximum of one funded application per applicant per year
-

Submission Guidelines

Before Submission:

MANDATORY: Discuss and agree your experimental plan (feasibility, cost, time-frames) with the chosen host facility(s)

We expect most applications to be for one of these [UK Node](#) sites*:

- 1. [ESRIC](#) (Edinburgh Super-resolution Imaging Consortium)
 2. [University of York, Imaging and Cytometry Facility](#)
 3. University of Liverpool, [Centre for Cellular Imaging](#), [Biomedical Electron Microscopy Unit](#), [Pre-clinical Imaging](#),
 4. [Oxford Brookes University, Centre for Bioimaging](#)
 5. King's College London, [Nikon Imaging Centre](#), [Microscopy Innovation Centre](#), [London Metallomics Facility](#)
 6. [The Francis Crick Institute, CALM facility](#)

Here is a list of UK Node Facility information and contacts - [UK Node Information and Contact Sheet](#)

Evaluation Criteria:

- Scientific excellence and potential impact of the work
- Career stage (priority for PhD Students, Research Technical Professionals (RTPs), junior Post-docs (< 2 years in role), junior PIs (< 2 years in role)
- Existing financial support available to applicant/team
- Evidence of need and lack of local technology/expertise availability
- Justification for non-UK facility access (if applicable)
- Value for money

After Submission:

- Applications are evaluated in March, July, November by the Biological User Access Panel (BL-UAP)
- We expect funding decisions to be communicated within 4 weeks of panel meeting
- Successful applicants receive award letters with detailed terms and conditions
- Project must commence within 6 months of timeline described in question D3

Important Notes:

- Maximum one funded application per applicant per year
- Since the OCTOPUS facility at Harwell already benefits from having dedicated [UKRI-funded user access](#) arrangements in place, this facility is excluded from this funding scheme; to access their equipment please visit the [relevant pages](#) on the Central Laser Facility website
- All biological research projects or fields are within scope
- Completion of a short post-access survey is mandatory
- All costs must be pre-agreed with facilities
- Costs will be paid *after* completion of the work and completion of the post-access survey

Support: For assistance with this application or facility connections, contact: UK Node Manager: Georgina@rms.org.uk

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

Section A: Applicant Details

2. **A1. Research Project Title ***

3. **A2. Applicant Name ***

4. **A3. Applicant Gender ***

Mark only one oval.

☐ Man

☐ Woman

☐ Non-Binary / Genderqueer

☐ Prefer not to say

☐ Other:

5. **A4. Applicant Position/Role ***

6. **A5. Applicant ORCID (if available)**

7. **A6. Applicant Career Stage ***

Mark only one oval.

☐ PhD Student

☐ Post-doc

☐ Research Technical Professional (RTP)

☐ Established Academic Researcher

☐ Other:

8. **A7. Is the applicant the same person as the Project Lead? ***

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, I am both the Project Lead and Applicant *Skip to question 15*
- ☐ No, the applicant is a different person *Skip to question 9*

Project Lead Details

9. **A8. Name of Project Lead ***

10. **A9. Gender of Project Lead ***

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Man
- ☐ Woman
- ☐ Non-Binary / Genderqueer
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other:

11. **A10. Project Lead Position/Role ***

12. **A11. Project Lead Institution ***

13. **A12. Project Lead Email ***

14. **A13. Project Lead ORCID (if available)**

CV Upload

15. *

Please upload a 1-2 page CV containing:

- Relevant employment history
- Research outputs including publications, datasets, code
- Funding received

PDF format preferred, maximum file size 10MB

Files submitted:

Section B: Project Description

16. **B1. Description of Project and Proposed Work** *

Summarise your research project, the specific work to be conducted at the imaging facility and the anticipated impact/outcomes.

Maximum 250 words

17. **B2. Scientific Background** *

Describe the scientific context and rationale for your project.

Maximum 1000 words

18. **B3. Planned Imaging Experiments**

*

Detail the specific imaging experiments you plan to conduct and how they address your scientific question. Include sample types, expected imaging conditions, timelines, and anticipated data outputs.

If you are requesting image data analysis services on already acquired data, please specify imaged sample, imaging modality used to acquire the data, estimated size and format of image data to be analysed, and requested analysis outputs (segmentation, alignment, derived markers etc.) .

Maximum 1000 words

19. **B4. Expected Results and Impact**

*

Describe anticipated outcomes and their importance to your overall research.

Maximum 1000 words

Section C: Technical Requirements

20. **C1. Preferred UK Node Site or Euro-Biolmaging Facility** *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ ESRIC *Skip to question 23*
- ☐ University of York *Skip to question 23*
- ☐ University of Liverpool *Skip to question 23*
- ☐ King's College London *Skip to question 23*
- ☐ Oxford Brookes University *Skip to question 23*
- ☐ The Francis Crick Institute *Skip to question 23*
- ☐ Another Euro-Biolmaging Node (outside the UK) *Skip to question 21*
- ☐ Require advice *Skip to question 22*

Please write the name of the other Euro-Biolmaging Node (outside the UK)

21. *

Skip to question 23

22. Thank you for your interest in Euro-Biolmaging. To apply for this funding, you need to have agreed with the imaging facility beforehand. If you agree, we will be in contact with you (within the next 1-2 weeks) to discuss your imaging experiment using the email address you supplied. Alternatively, you are welcome to email Georgina@rms.org.uk or info@eurobioimaging.eu for advice. *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree

C2. Required Technology/Service

23. **Select the imaging technology or data analysis service needed: ***

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Advanced light microscopy (confocal, super-resolution, multi-photon, lightsheet, HREM, etc.)
- ☐ Electron microscopy (SEM, TEM, volume EM, cryo-EM etc.) or X-Ray
- ☐ Spatial omics imaging (transcriptomics, mass spectrometry imaging)
- ☐ Image data analysis services
- ☐ Other: _____

24. **C3. Select any additional resources that may be needed: ***

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Sample preparation facilities
- ☐ Image processing and analysis
- ☐ Data storage/transfer
- ☐ Training/technical support
- ☐ Other: _____

25. **C4. Your Expertise Level with Selected Technology : ***

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Beginner - never or rarely use
- ☐ Intermediate - confident to operate alone
- ☐ Advanced - routinely use
- ☐ Other: _____

26. **C5. Are there any biological hazards associated with your project? If yes, * describe safety measures and institutional approvals.**

Maximum 400 words

Section D: Facility Communication and Planning

27. **D1. Please provide the name and contact details of the facility staff member who confirmed your experimental plan and give the date of agreement ***

28. **D2. You MUST agree the experimental plan (feasibility, cost, timelines) with the UK Node site prior to submission. This is a mandatory requirement. ***

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ I confirm that I have discussed and agreed the experimental plan with the facility, including feasibility, costs, and timelines *Skip to question 30*
- ☐ Experimental plan not agreed yet *Skip to question 29*

Untitled Section

29. Thank you for your interest in Euro-Biolmaging. To apply for this funding, you need to have agreed the experimental plan with the imaging facility you want to visit beforehand. If you agree, we will be in contact with you (within the next 1-2 weeks) to discuss your imaging experiment using the email address you supplied. Alternatively, you are welcome to email Georgina@rms.org.uk or info@eurobioimaging.eu for advice. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Agree

☐ Don't agree

Project Timeline

30. **D3a. Preferred start date** *

Example: January 7, 2019

31. **D3b. Expected duration** *

32. **D4. Flexibility in timing** *

Mark only one oval.

☐ High

☐ Medium

☐ Low

Section E: Funding and Support

33. **E1. Current Financial Support Assessment** *

Please accurately describe your funding situation

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ No current funding available for this type of access
- ☐ Limited funding available but insufficient for facility access costs
- ☐ Funding available but allocated to other project components
- ☐ Alternative funding sources available but prefer UK Node support
- ☐ Adequate funding available through other sources
- ☐ Other: _____

34. **E2. Have you explored other funding sources for this facility access?** *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ No other sources available
- ☐ Applied elsewhere but unsuccessful
- ☐ Other sources have restrictions preventing use
- ☐ Other sources available but timing doesn't align
- ☐ Have not explored other options
- ☐ Other: _____

E3. Funding amount requested

There is up to £5000 available for access to biomaging hardware and up to £2000 for image analysis services.

Based on your agreed discussions with the facility, provide detailed cost breakdown in £GBP:

35. **Facility access/instrument time**

36. **Data scientist time**

37. **User consumables**

38. **Travel costs**

39. **Subsistence costs (accommodation, food, drink)**

40. **Sample shipment**

41. **Other justified, eligible costs**

42. **Total project costs ***

43. **Amount Requested from UK Node ***

44. **E4. Percentage of Full Economic Cost Requested**

*

Maximum funding (100% FEC) is typically reserved for applicants without current funding support

Mark only one oval.

☐ 100%

☐ 75%

☐ 50%

☐ 25%

☐ Other: _____

45. **E5. If not requesting 100% FEC, how will the remaining costs be covered?**

Maximum 200 words

Section F: Impact Assessment

46. **F1: Explain how this access represents good value and supports your research objectives**

*

Maximum 400 words

47. **F2: Describe how this access will benefit your career development (particularly relevant for early career researchers)** *

Maximum 400 words

48. **F3a: Demonstrate the specific need for external facility access** *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Required technology not available at my institution
- ☐ Local facility oversubscribed/unavailable for required timeframe
- ☐ Specific technical expertise required not available locally
- ☐ Technology available locally but insufficient capacity/capability or missing specific required system configuration
- ☐ Collaborative opportunity requiring specific facility
- ☐ Training/skills development opportunity not available locally
- ☐ Data analysis services not available locally
- ☐ Other: _____

49. **F3b: Provide detailed evidence of the above** *

Maximum 400 words

50. **F4. If requesting access to a facility outside the UK, provide strong justification for why this is necessary and cannot be met by UK Node facilities**

Maximum 400 words

Section G: Ethical Considerations

51. **G1: If your project involves ethical issues (animals, human samples, personal data, etc.), describe compliance with relevant guidelines, institutional approvals, and licensing.**

*

If not applicable, write "N/A"

Maximum 1000 words

Section H: Additional Information

52. **H1. How Did You Learn About This Funding Opportunity? ***

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ UK Node facility staff
- ☐ BioImagingUK network
- ☐ University research office
- ☐ Colleague recommendation
- ☐ UKRI website
- ☐ Scientific conference/meeting
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Other: _____

53. **H2. Data Management and Sharing ***

The UK Node promotes FAIR data principles and open science. Describe your plans for data management and any commitment to open data sharing. Euro-BioImaging have developed a comprehensive Data Management Plan (DMP) template with tailored questions for bioimaging research projects, available [here](#) as a fillable PDF which can be used as guidance for this section.

Note: UK Node Data Steward support is available to assist with data deposition

Maximum 600 words

Section I: Declarations

54. **I1. Declarations ***

Check all that apply.

- ☐ I confirm that my institution is UKRI eligible and that I am applying as an academic researcher (not industry user)
- ☐ I confirm that I have not received UK Node access funding in the current calendar year (maximum one funded application per applicant per year)
- ☐ I understand that funding will only be released upon completion of the post-access form, and that facility costs will be invoiced directly to the UK Node team for reimbursement
- ☐ I consent to my application data being shared with the Biological User Access Panel (BL-UAP), UK Node management team, facility staff, and UKRI for monitoring and evaluation-type purposes, and understand that my details may be used for monitoring and evaluation purposes
- ☐ I commit to completing a post-access outcome report and providing updates on any publications, further funding, or other impacts resulting from this access

Section J: Payment and Administrative Arrangements

55. **J1. Please confirm your understanding of the funding process:**

*

- Facility access costs will be invoiced directly by the host facility to the UK Node team
- Any co-funding (if not 100% FEC) will be paid directly by you to the facility
- Travel and subsistence reimbursements will be processed in one single transaction only directly by the - UK Node team upon submission of a single PDF containing all receipts.
- Funding release is contingent upon completion of post-access reporting
- The sum requested in the application is the maximum allowable budget that can be claimed

Check all that apply.

- ☐ I understand and agree to the payment arrangements described above