

Access to the Nottingham DNP MAS NMR Facility

Access Routes

The EPSRC Strategic Equipment Panel required the Nottingham DNP MAS NMR Facility to operate in a sustainable fashion and only a proportion of the operating costs for 3 years were awarded with the grant to purchase the instrument. Therefore, there will be two routes for accessing time at the Nottingham DNP MAS NMR Facility:

1. *Costed access.* For this route the user will pay an access charge of £1000 per day; the amount will be reviewed periodically by the Facility Management Board. Time at the Nottingham DNP MAS NMR Facility can be charged to RCUK grants. Users wishing to include Facility time on a RCUK grant application should contact the Facility prior to submission in order to discuss the feasibility of the project and to obtain a letter of support. If demand for costed access exceeds the time available, the Facility Management Board will decide on a suitable procedure for prioritising access.
2. *Free access.* In order to allow for feasibility studies a proportion of the time at the Facility will be allocated free of charge. During the first year of operation up to 120 days will be allocated in this way. For this route the user will be required to submit an application to the Facility's Access Priority Group (for more details see below). Note that the Strategic Equipment Panel required that the proportion of free access should be reduced over the duration of the grant.

Included Costs

1. "Access" includes the services of the Facility Manager and the operating costs of the instrument, such as cryogenics and DNP consumables, including rotors, radicals and solvents.
2. The Facility has stocks of radicals available for users (see the Facility webpage for details). DNP samples will normally be prepared at the Facility, but users are encouraged to discuss sample preparation with the Facility Manager prior to use. Access to a fume cupboard and a glovebox for sample preparation can be provided, if required.
3. The Facility Manager will be available 8 am – 5 pm, Monday to Friday only, and access will not normally be scheduled at weekends. It is expected that the Facility Manager will be present to assist during all experiments.
4. Travel and accommodation are not included, although the Facility will assist users with booking rooms on the University of Nottingham campus, if required and available.

Conditions of use:

1. The Facility will be acknowledged in any publication arising wholly or partly from an allocation of time.
2. Users will be required to submit reports describing their use of the time to the Facility.

Free Access

Free access time will be allocated as follows:

Proposals

1. Proposals will be accepted at any time; there will be no formal deadlines. The time allocated to users will normally be within three months of the date of the application.
2. Users will fill out an application form (see the Facility webpage) which can be submitted by email.
3. Applicants must be UK academics who are eligible to apply for standard Research Council funding. Commercial users wishing to carry out feasibility studies should contact the Facility.
4. Applications will contain sufficient background material to set the research in context, a description of the proposed measurements, a justification for the use of DNP MAS NMR, any previous NMR results and a plan for obtaining future funding for DNP measurements. This section will comprise no more than two pages.
5. Applicants are reminded that the purpose of free access time is to allow for feasibility studies. We expect these to last one week maximum, in general.

Access Priority Group

1. The Access Priority Group is a sub-committee of the Facility Management Board. The Facility Manager will be ex-officio in attendance to advise on issues such as the feasibility of the proposed experiments. One external member of the Facility Management Board will take part.
2. Scientific merit will be the most important criterion against which applications will be judged. However, priority will be given to applications which demonstrate a clear plan for the production of research outcomes, in particular grant applications.
3. The Access Priority group will ensure that the balance of the research carried out at the Facility broadly reflects the remit and priorities of EPSRC.
4. Abbreviated feedback will be provided to unsuccessful applicants.