

The Research Complex at Harwell (RCaH) is a national user facility, open to researchers in UK universities and research institutes. The main aims are to maximise the potential of the major facilities on the RAL site, such as Diamond Light Source (DLS), the UK Neutron Source (ISIS), the Central Laser Facility (CLF) and the new electron microscopy (EM) centre, and to stimulate multidisciplinary research across traditional subject boundaries.

1. Eligibility for Access to RCaH: Who can apply?

- UK academics who hold (or are eligible to apply for) a research grant from the stakeholder Research Councils (BBSRC, EPSRC, MRC, NERC, STFC).
- UK academics funded by one of the stakeholder Research Councils (such as postdoctoral fellows).
- Employees of one of the stakeholders, i.e. STFC, MRC or Diamond Light Source. Please speak directly to the relevant Director in the first instance.
- Users of major RAL facilities (such as Diamond, ISIS, CLF/LSF).

2. Criteria for Access: What research projects qualify?

- *Scientific Excellence*: Projects must be internationally competitive science that is likely to have a significant impact on the field, and must be technically feasible.
- *Added Value*: Projects must clearly demonstrate significant added value to the research as a result of the use of RCaH. The added value will be judged in comparison to the same research carried out in a researcher's home institution (e.g. a university) or in one of the RAL facilities (e.g. Diamond, ISIS, CLF/LSF etc.). The research should ideally also add value to the overall RCaH programme.
- *Stakeholder Value*: Projects must form part of a stakeholder's research programme (e.g. be funded by a grant from a stakeholder, be associated with beamtime access etc.) and therefore be directly attributable to (at least) one stakeholder's share of RCaH.

These are the overriding criteria to be fulfilled before access is granted, and apply regardless of the research field, duration of the project, researcher's employer or length of visit. Assessment will be rapid and 'light touch' for projects that have already passed peer review. The Director will be advised, where necessary, by a Local Advisory Group (LAG), consisting of the RCaH Operations Manager, and one nominee from Diamond, ISIS, CLF or PPUK. The Director reserves the right to seek independent peer review for any project not subjected to peer review by the sponsoring stakeholder.

3. Access Modes

RCaH access is highly flexible and can range from a few hours' use of equipment during beam time access to an RAL facility to a five-year research programme for a resident research group

4. Right of Appeal

An applicant wishing to appeal a decision should initially contact the Director. If not satisfied, they can appeal to the member of the Board representing the stakeholder sponsoring the applicant's research. The Board membership is published on the RCaH website.

5. Reporting

Users will be required to provide a short report on their activity within six months of the end of the awarded period.

6. Acknowledgement

Users should give appropriate acknowledgement to RCaH in any publications arising from work carried out in RCaH. Long-term resident groups should list RCaH as an address; shorter-term, non-resident users should mention RCaH in the Acknowledgements section.

7. Proprietary or Commercial Research

The VAT status of RCaH places strict limits on proprietary or commercial research: there is no current capacity for this over and above the core programmes. No applications for proprietary or commercial research projects can therefore be entertained at present.