Writing Beamtime Applications

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ISIS Muons
The Proposal Process

- 2 calls per year
  (deadlines 3rd Wednesday in April and October)
- All submissions via ISIS website
- ~70-80 proposals submitted per round
- Oversubscription ~2-3
- 6 weeks after the deadline, the selection panel meets
- Results a few weeks after that (with comments)
- Instrument scientist will then ask for preferred dates
- Schedule produced, local contacts assigned
- Run experiments!
If the proposal PI is from China, India or South Africa, you can ask for Newton funding (but this is oversubscribed).
Step 4 of 11: Support for your research

We would like to understand how your research at ISIS is supported within your overall research programme. This is so that we can better understand how ISIS contributes to the programmes of other research councils or research funders, or the programmes of industrial partners.

Do you or another co-investigator on this proposal have one or more grants which relate to this proposal? *

Are there any industrial links related to this proposal (including CASE awards, etc)? *

Please list any other ways that this proposal is supported, e.g. through fellowships, etc

PhD Students on this Proposal
Please specify up to 3 funding sources per PhD student

You have not added any PhD students as co-applicants on your proposal. Please tell us in the 'Other' box above if there are likely to be any students associated with this proposal and what their funding source is.

How the proposal is supported (associated grants, or studentships, or industry links) is important.
You need to choose appropriate sample environment equipment. Ask a member of the ISIS Muon group if you’re not sure, or see https://www.isis.stfc.ac.uk/Pages/Muon-Instrument-Comparison.aspx
Step 7c of 11: Sample Safety

Are there any hazards associated with your sample?*
- Sensitive to air? Yes/No
- Sensitive to water vapour? Yes/No

Are there any other hazards associated with the experiment?*

Are there any other hazards associated with the sample preparation at ISIS?*

Are there any other hazards associated with experiment equipment?*
- Will you need to use the sample prep labs? Yes/No
- Other special equipment requirements?
- After the experiment the sample will be*

Please note that a more detailed Experiment Risk Assessment will be required for all successful proposals before an experiment is run.
Science Case

- Proposals judged on science
- Upload a **2-page** scientific case.
  - **Don’t use colour**
  - **Will be reduced** to 70%: don’t use fonts <12pt size.
  - **Self-contained** (but can include references)

- Explain the background (timeliness, technological relevance, etc)
- What question(s) are you trying to answer?
- How will muons help - what information will you get? Why muons?
- Describe the measurements (no. samples, temp. / field scans)
- Justify the time you are asking for (be specific)
- Samples - do you have them? Say how they been characterised
- Demonstrate you’ve used previous beamtime well
Things to avoid . . .

‘we will search for the multi-spitoon excitations’

‘CsNiBr₃ is isomorphic to CsNiBr₃ [2]’

‘we will probe the two mango dispersion’

‘the burst of muons, rather than one muon at a time, will simulate hydrogen diffusion and encourage competition for traps . . .’

‘In the past, several of these systems have been studied by means of muSR. Reanalysing the data shows that substantial parts of the data are missing . . . .’

‘I am overwhelmed by the feeling that I have spent longer reading this proposal than the author spent writing it’
Muon Facility Access Panel Members Dec 2017

Steve Bramwell (UCL) - Chair
Fabrice Bert (Paris-Sud)
Nigel Clayden (UEA)
Rustem Khasanov (PSI)
Martin Mansson (Royal Institute of Technology)
Rick Mengyen (Northern Michigan)

Lei Shu (Fudan)
Ian Tucker (Unilever)
Isao Watanabe (RIKEN)
Adrian Hillier (ISIS Representative)
Mark Telling (Secretary)
Other types of Proposals

Rapid Access

- For rapidly-moving science areas, new sample discoveries, other urgent studies
- Proposals can be submitted any time
- Rapidly reviewed by FAP Chair and one other FAP member
- If awarded time, scheduled as soon as possible
- Must be a clear case as to why the measurement is urgent

Xpress Access

- For initial characterisation of samples or feasibility checks on samples for future beamtime
- Proposals are short, and can be submitted any time
- Reviewed internally
- Awarded up to 5 hours of beamtime on either MuSR or EMU.
- Users need not come for the measurement - can send the sample in

Further details on website

https://www.isis.stfc.ac.uk/Pages/ISIS%20Proposal%20Routes%20copy.pdf
Research Complex at Harwell (RCaH)

- RCaH is located on the RAL site
- It provides additional experimental facilities (e.g. electron microscopes, NMR) which UK users of ISIS can use
- You can request access to RCaH facilities in the proposal system.

See ISIS website for more details
ISIS User Office

Available to answer questions, deal with problems, etc:

Telephone: +44 1235 445592
Fax: +44 1235 445103
Email: isisuo@rl.ac.uk
https://www.isis.stfc.ac.uk/Pages/User-Office.aspx
Flow chart for an ISIS experiment

Proposal

Facility Access Panels

Beamtime awarded

Experiment scheduled

Experiment contact asked to:
1. complete ERA
2. list other team members

User office email team members:
1. link to book accommodation
2. link to online registration

Visitors need to:
1. book accommodation
2. check details
3. check health information
4. complete online safety test

Run the experiment!
Online systems

Welcome
This system should be used to build your experimental risk assessment (ERA). Your ERA is an essential document for your experiment. The information collected by this system will help us improve our services, as well as properly evaluating the hazards.

Your ISIS Experimental Risk Assessments
You do not have any saved assessments.

My Safety Tests
This system should be used to complete the safety tests you must pass before using the facilities at ISIS. The information collected by this system will also help us improve our registration process and in turn our service to you. Please ensure that your safety tests will be valid for the duration of your experiment (you may need to take the tests for the facility you will be working at).

My Visits
This system should be used to inform us who will be visiting the ISIS Facility or central Laser Facility (CLF) and why (e.g. as part of an experimental team). It is important you use this system to record all visitors who will require access to site regardless of whether they need accommodation or travel for the duration. This will help us improve our registration process and in turn our service to you.

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<th>Earliest Date of Arrival</th>
<th>Primary Purpose</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<td>2011-04-28</td>
<td>ISIS Experiment</td>
<td>Craft</td>
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Create New Request