Application Process

✅ For assistance in completing your merit allocation application, please contact the Pawsey Helpdesk Service.

Allocation Schemes

Project proposals are invited via a number of schemes which are targeted at different research communities, fields, and levels of computational experience.

At the time of writing, compute-time allocations on Magnus may be obtained through the following schemes:
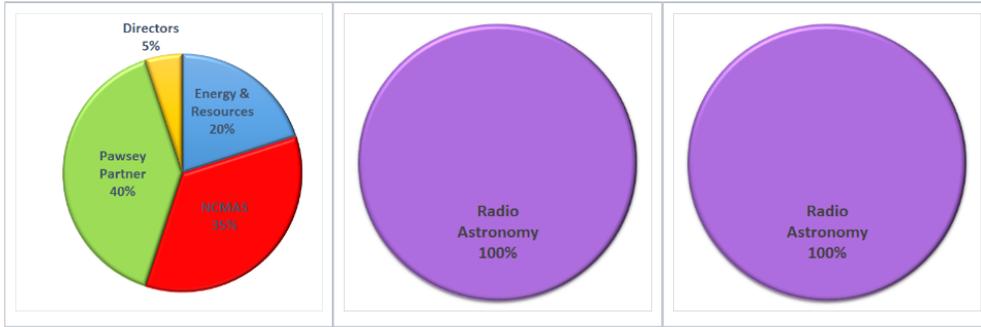
- **The National Computational Merit Allocation Scheme (NCMAS)** – 35% of the compute time available on Magnus is allocated through this scheme, along with compute-time allocations from other Australian centres including NCI, UQ, and MASSIVE. The scheme operates annual allocation calls, which are open to the whole Australian research community and which provide substantial amounts of compute time for meritorious, computational-research projects.
- **The Pawsey Energy & Resources Merit Allocation Scheme** – 20% of the compute time available on Magnus is allocated through this scheme. Open to the Australian energy and resources research community, providing significant amounts of compute time for meritorious research projects in the domain. See the Australian Government Science Priorities for guidance on what qualifies as Energy and Resources. Energy examples include generation, storage and distribution. Resources examples include exploration, minerals extraction and processing, groundwater, and waste management. This scheme operates annual calls, with an out-of-session application process for newly eligible project leaders.
- **The Pawsey Partner Merit Allocation Scheme** – 40% of the compute time available on Magnus is allocated through this scheme. Calls are open to researchers in Pawsey Partner institutions and provide significant amounts of compute time for meritorious, computational research projects. The Partner institutions are CSIRO, Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University and The University of Western Australia. This scheme operates annual calls, with an out-of-session application process for newly eligible project leaders.

The merit-allocation schemes are summarized in the following table.

Scheme	Key Eligibility Criteria	Call Frequency	Award size and duration
NCMAS	- Projects must be research-focused. - Principal Investigator must be employed at an Australian university or research institution	Annual call in September/October each year (100,000,000 core hours on Magnus)	Large, 12-month allocations, budgeted quarterly
Energy & Resources Merit Allocation Scheme	- Project must be research-focused - Project must be in energy or resources domains - Principal Investigator must be employed at an Australian university or research institution	- Annual call in September/October each year (55,500,000 core hours on Magnus) - Responsive-mode in exceptional cases, available most of the year (2,500,000 core hours on Magnus)	Large, 12-month allocations, budgeted quarterly
Pawsey Partner Merit Allocation Scheme	- Project must be research-focused - Principal Investigator must be employed at a Pawsey Partner institution	- Annual call in September/October each year (110,000,000 core hours on Magnus) - Responsive-mode in exceptional cases, available most of the year (5,000,000 core hours on Magnus)	Large, 12-month allocations, budgeted quarterly

Allocation Schemes across the Resources

Magnus	Galaxy	Garrawarla

- Magnus - Access to Magnus is primarily through competitive merit, via the Energy & Resources, NCMAS or Pawsey Partner schemes.
- Galaxy - Galaxy is restricted to the ASKAP project.
- Garrawarla - Access for MWA project members can be requested by contacting the Pawsey Service Desk.
- Zeus - All users of Magnus and Galaxy have access to Zeus.
- Topaz - Any existing Pawsey users can request access via the Pawsey Service Desk, and this will include a discussion about GPU appropriateness.

Allocation Process

Each project proposal for use of Pawsey supercomputers is assessed as to:

- its compliance with the eligibility of the scheme to which it is submitted;
- its technical feasibility – in terms of appropriateness for the resources requested;
- its scientific merit.

Only a project proposal that fulfills the constraints of the particular scheme and that is deemed to be technically feasible is eligible to receive a compute-time allocation on a Pawsey supercomputer. Within meritorious schemes, such as the Pawsey Partner Merit Allocation Scheme or the National Computational Merit Allocation Scheme, the process is conducted by an independent panel of computational researchers who prioritise and award compute time to eligible projects according to their scientific merit.

Allocations under the Energy & Resources, NCMAS and Pawsey Partner schemes are all based on competitive merit. The scientific research and computational methodology assessment criteria are nearly identical between the schemes. Although how these criteria are scored and contribute to rankings between the schemes may differ, it is essential that you address all the criteria in the most appropriate way for your background and project.

Completing an application

To ensure Pawsey has the information needed to properly assess a proposal, a researcher should ensure they:

- meet the criteria of the call to which they are applying;
- read the call text carefully and aim to address all points of consideration;
- provide clear and complete information.

Refer to the individual scheme pages for application details: Energy & Resources, NCMAS and Pawsey Partner. Note that NCMAS uses a different form and application portal to the other schemes.

Researchers are encouraged to contact the Pawsey Helpdesk should they have any questions or comments regarding compute-time award schemes or allocations.

> ⊘ Allocation of compute time on Pawsey resources remains the discretion of the Pawsey Executive Director: their decision regarding the assessment of a proposal or the allocation of compute time is final.

Results and Project Creation

The results of applications for Pawsey supercomputer allocations are sent to the Principal Investigator named on the application. It is up to the PI to communicate the results to their team.

For the the Energy & Resources, NCMAS and Pawsey Partner schemes, the Principal Investigator is notified in approximately mid-December. (The allocation committees typically meet in late November to early December). If no notification is received before the end of year, please check your spam folder in case the bulk-sent emails have been incorrectly categorised as spam.

For annual allocations from the competitive merit process, new allocations and new projects are created in mid January after the system maintenance period.

In the case of new projects, the following workflow occurs:

1. Principal Investigator receives an invitation via email to accept the allocation and responsibility for the project. The Principal Investigator must click the link, either login with an existing account or create a new account, before the next step can occur.
2. The allocation is created on the system, and project participants listed on the application are sent an invitation to join the project. Each participant must click the link, either login with an existing account or create a new account, before the next step can occur for that participant.
3. After each participant completes the above step, they are added to the project group and added to SLURM.

In the case of continuing projects, the above workflow starts at step 2.

If a project member has not heard from Pawsey about an application, please check with the Principal Investigator in the first instance as to whether the application was successful and whether they completed their step of the above workflow.

Pages in this section: