

Apply for Nimbus Cloud access

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Conditions

The Nimbus Research Cloud is exclusively for research purposes. It is free for anyone applying from an Australian research organisation. Note that WA State Government agencies undertaking research can also access resources free of charge.

Application process

- **Where do I apply and what information do I need to provide?**

Login using your [AAF](#) credentials (this is your home institution login and password) at <https://apply.pawsey.org.au/>. If you are not from an [AAF institution](#), you can create a login using your email address.



Application Portal

🏠 MAIN LOGIN

If not AAF institution

Login to Pawsey Application Portal

AUSTRALIAN ACCESS FEDERATION

Please press the "Login" button below and use your username and password from an Australian institute or another AAF login.

If you have more than one account, please use the one most relevant to your purpose for using Pawsey services.

LOGIN

If you do not have an account from an Australian institute or another AAF subscriber, but have a legitimate reason for using Pawsey services, you may [signup with your email address](#).

[Login with your email address](#)

Please note this is **NOT** creating a Pawsey account to login into Nimbus. Instructions will be emailed to you, if your application is accepted, on creating a Pawsey account if you don't already have one.

Below is what you'll see once you are logged in and select "Applications". Select "New Application" button to start the application process. "Allocations" button will show existing allocations you may have.

My Applications

Application Portal > Applications > My Applications

Filter: All Applications (4) Sort: Modified Date

+ NEW APPLICATION

A new application form. All fields with a red asterisk must be completed.

New Application

Delete Save and close

Previous

1 2

Next

Application Title *

Give the application a title

Your work *

A short description of your research

How many n3.1c4r (1 core and 4 GB RAM) instances?

Add the number of instances of this particular flavour you would like

How many n3.2c8r (2 core and 8 GB RAM) instances?

Add the number of instances of this particular flavour you would like

How many n3.4c16r (4 core and 16 GB RAM) instances?

Add the number of instances of this particular flavour you would like

How many n3.8c32r (8 core and 32 GB RAM) instances?

Add the number of instances of this particular flavour you would like

How many n3.16c64r (16 core and 64 GB RAM) would you like?

These instances are available upon special request with appropriate justification

SPECIAL REQUEST

Help?

I am unsure which flavour/instance type best suits my research needs. I would like to talk to a specialist. Example case studies are [here](#)

Project requirements

*

Please describe the amount of volume storage you require for your project and any other requirements you may have, in addition to the instances / flavours selected above such as whether you would like access to NVIDIA virtual GPUs (vGPUs).

FOR codes

*

ABS Field of Research codes

Percentage

%

Total

0

%

[+ Add a new line](#)

You can add lines as much as you need, but the total of the percentages must equal 100.

Grant funding number

Please include any relevant grant funding number. If none, please write None or N/A

1st condition of use

*

I agree to notify Pawsey if the owner changes

2nd condition of use

*

I agree to notify Pawsey if my email address changes

3rd condition of use

*

I agree that my project allocation is limited to 6 months. If I want continued use, I must re-apply for an allocation

4th condition of use

*

I understand that my data and instance(s) will be deleted from Nimbus after a one month grace period, if I do not re-apply before the end of my 6-month allocation

* Mandatory Field

As a general rule, users can apply for up to a maximum of **128 cores**. This roughly equates to the minimum size for supercomputing merit allocations if cores are used over a year. This rule aims to provide a distinction between cloud and supercomputing resources. Note, the larger the amount of resource requested, the greater the amount of description / justification is required.

For example, 1 x n3.4c16r instance would require of couple of sentences of the research you are undertaking and expected outcome. If you are requesting multiple n3.16c64r instances then you would need much more detail on type of software, workflows and research outcomes to justify the larger amount of resources.

After submission, Pawsey will review your application and if successful will email you details to login and start using your allocation.

- **How long should I wait to expect a response?**

We aim to reply with a response within 1 week for simple requests. We may ask for further information to support your application, especially if you are asking for large amounts of resource.

- **Can I have Windows VMs running on Nimbus?**

As Pawsey uses the CSIRO Microsoft site license, this means that the underlying hardware of Nimbus is covered by the same license. While this is technically fine for a Pawsey staff member wanting to spin up a Windows VM on Nimbus, it unfortunately does not extend to all Nimbus users. Additionally, even if a Nimbus user went out and purchased a standalone OEM license for Windows 10, it needs to be run on physical hardware to use the license key. The only way we could do it is if we purchased a Windows Server license, and applied it to the underlying hypervisor that a Windows VM is running on. Even then, if we ever need to migrate that VM to another compute node, the Windows Server license needs to be migrated as well (and that can only be done every 90 days). The only other option is to purchase a Windows System Centre license to cover all Nimbus compute nodes, but that is something we simply don't have the budget for.

So the bottom line is, no, we aren't able to provide Windows licensing for Nimbus clients (or Pawsey clients in general).

- **How likely will my application be approved?**

If you are asking for a relatively small amount of resources (e.g. 1 or 2 instances) and you are doing research it is highly likely you'll be approved. If you are asking for larger amounts of resources then we expect a more detailed description on why you need that amount before approving.

- **How long does a Nimbus project run for, and what is the re-application process?**

6 months is the length of each project (apart from vGPUs) and as per the 3rd condition of use, if you wish to continue use, you must re-apply. Once you get close to the end of your 6 months you'll receive an email and a link to your application(s) on the Pawsey application portal where you should see a "re-apply" button (see below). Clicking this will take you to a pre-populated application form with information from your existing application. Here you can edit it or re-apply as is for another 6 months.

If you do **NOT** re-apply, your project will be 'locked' and then deleted as per the 4th condition of use.

The screenshot shows the application portal interface for application A000219. At the top left, it says 'Application A000219'. At the top right, there is a breadcrumb trail: 'Application Portal > Applications > A000219'. Below this, a status bar indicates 'Accepted on 04 Sep 2020' and includes two buttons: 'Re-apply' and 'Contributors'. The main content area contains two input fields. The first is labeled 'Application Title *' and contains the text 'SECOND TEST'. Below this field is a small note: 'You can edit it on first page.'. The second field is labeled 'Your work *' and contains the text 'More testing'. Below this field is a small note: 'A short description of your research'.

- **What if I want to change my allocation once it is approved?**

If your requirements change, you can request a change in your allocation. You do not need to go through the application portal again, just email help@pawsey.org.au with your request and reason. Please ask for types of instances (e.g. 2 x n3.4c16r (4 core / 16 GB RAM) instances + 100GB more volume storage) not just 8 more cores for example. If you would like vGPUs added please review the vGPU policy - [Nimbus GPU Access](#) before requesting via help@pawsey.org.au.

- **How do I acknowledge Nimbus Pawsey usage?**

In order to continue offering infrastructure and services, Pawsey needs to demonstrate impact to our funding partners. You can assist by acknowledging Pawsey in publications (see examples here - <https://support.pawsey.org.au/documentation/display/US/Conditions+of+Use#ConditionsofUse-Publications>) and providing updates / information for case studies where appropriate.

Lifecycle workflow diagram

A workflow showing the lifecycle of Nimbus project from creation to deletion or renewal

Nimbus Application Process

Luke Edwards | May 1, 2020



