

Research Infrastructures and COVID-19 Research



ACCELERATE is funded by the European Union Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020, under grant agreement 731112



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Responses to the questionnaire

Instruct-ERIC

Instruct-ERIC is the single point of access to technology and expertise for structural biology research. Through its specialist research centres in Europe, Instruct-ERIC offers funded research visits, training, internships and R&D awards. By promoting integrative methods, Instruct-ERIC enables excellent science and technological development for the benefit of all life scientists.

SERVICE/S IMPLEMENTED

Where possible, Instruct-ERIC will continue to offer restricted access to structural biology services for research directly related to COVID-19, through a priority access pathway. Priority access ensures a faster review of research proposals relating to COVID-19. For more information, visit <https://instruct-eric.eu/news/priority-access-for-research-proposals-relating-to-covid-19-virus/>

A full list of the Instruct services that are available during the restricted period, including remote access to our Centres, is available at <https://instruct-eric.eu/news/resources-information-and-collaborations-to-support-covid-19-research/>

▪ What stage in COVID-19 intervention your RI is addressing?

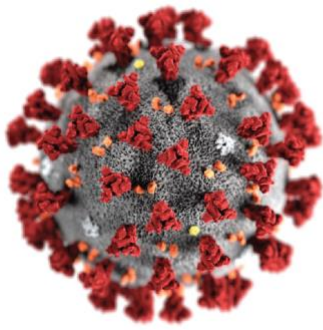
Basic virus structure and function, molecular biology, biomolecular (protein) structure determination, structure-based drug design, structure-based vaccine development, screening known chemical ligands and neutralising antibodies for binding to viral targets.

▪ Instruments/databases involved:

Instruct-ERIC services that are still available are limited but include: structural biology services, some sample preparation specific to particular infrastructure methods, biomolecular analysis, 3D structure determination (cryo-EM, NMR, BioSAXS, XChem, X-ray crystallography) and computational support for image analysis. For a list of services available during the restricted access period, visit <https://instruct-eric.eu/news/resources-information-and-collaborations-to-support-covid-19-research/>

▪ How is the proposal submitted?

To request priority access to Instruct-ERIC services, scientists are invited to submit a research proposal with 'COVID-19' in the title at <https://instruct-eric.eu/submit-proposal/>



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▪ Who evaluates the proposal?

Subject to initial approval from the relevant Instruct facility, research proposals concerning COVID-19 will undergo expedited peer-review by a senior reviewer.

▪ Is the submission continuous, or linked to a deadline?

Continuous

▪ What is the estimated time from the submission to the access / service provision?

The time frame for service provision will depend on the nature of the service that is requested and the availability of the facility. We estimate that the approval of a proposal can be achieved within 1-2 days and service provision will be within 1-2 months of proposal submission, depending on capacity at this busy time.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ACCESS

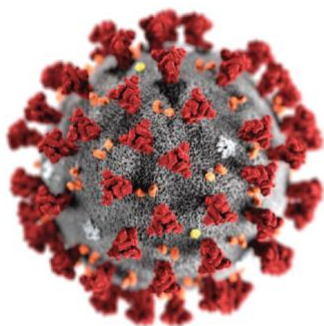
Restrictions: Provided the research proposal passes scientific review, any researcher can apply for access to Instruct services. As for all Instruct-ERIC proposals, researchers from Instruct Member countries will be funded by Instruct, where machine access, consumables, travel and accommodation are included. Non-members are not normally funded, but in this extreme situation, fees will be minimised or waived where possible.

In the case of analytical facilities, modality of access allowed: Remote access only

Comment for remote access only: Please visit <https://instruct-eric.eu/news/resources-information-and-collaborations-to-support-covid-19-research/> for a list of Instruct-ERIC services that are available for COVID-19-related research during the restricted access period.

Is the access free for non-proprietary research?	YES
Is commercial access available at reduced prices?	YES
Are there limitations regarding the type of samples?	YES
Are there special requirements for shipment of the samples?	YES
Are there specific requirements regarding the preparation or handling of the samples?	YES

Additional comments related to the questions above: Instruct-ERIC services are free at the point of use for Instruct Member researchers, but this special circumstance may allow some Centres to reduce or waive their fees for non-Member scientists undertaking COVID-19-related research.



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Currently, on-site access for researchers is not possible at any of the Instruct Centres. Access to infrastructure requires the sample to be shipped to the Centre, where the analysis will be undertaken by Centre staff and results made available.

As SARS-CoV-2 is a Cat 3 pathogen and infectious virus, it must be handled as such. Individual viral protein components and ligands are handled as Cat 2. Quality control of sample material is paramount for structural work; advice will be provided and some preliminary data on sample quality will be required. Samples may need to be deep-frozen and shipped in dewars - specialist advice will be provided by the Centre accepting the sample.

ACCESSIBILITY OF THE PUBLICATION AND DATA

Is there any requirement to publish in open access journals?	NO
Is the data generated associated to metadata and is it publicly available?	YES
If yes, what is the embargo period?	The embargo period is subject to negotiation with the researcher/user.
Where is the data or metadata published? (e.g. in the institution's catalogue, in other open data repositories, etc).	The publication of data or metadata is at the discretion of the user and associated Instruct facility staff.
Do you have further comments about data or metadata?	Open-access publication is encouraged but not mandatory. All efforts are made to collect associated metadata and make it publicly available, e.g. deposit this as a PDB clone where possible. For more information, please see the Instruct-ERIC data management policy at https://instruct-eric.eu/data-management-policy .