



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

My First Freezing: cryo-EM Project

Cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM) is revolutionizing structural investigations of biological and material samples. The UCSC Biomolecular cryo-EM facility is here to help you exploit this exciting new technology. Cryo-EM can contribute to biomedical research focused on structural biology, enzymology, microbiology, cell biology, ligand discovery, etc. Material sciences and soft materials characterization can also benefit from the atomic resolution information accessible by cryo-EM with our instrumentation.

The UCSC Office of Research made funding available to kick off new projects and collect preliminary data for future extramural grant applications. We are pleased to announce a second round of “*My First Freezing: cryo-EM Project*”. Awardees will receive a **\$1500 Recharge Voucher** for the UCSC cryo-EM facility. The voucher can be used for EM sample preparation and preliminary data acquisition and analysis. Based on the project’s progress and the availability of funds, a second voucher may also be requested. Our initial awardees were able to successfully obtain preliminary data to apply for grants, start high-resolution data collection at National Facilities, and publish results.

Who should apply? UC-affiliated researchers aiming to visualize biological and/or materials samples on a nano-to-micrometer size scale. Be aware that highly purified samples and previous characterization *may not be necessary* depending on the goals of the project. Please contact the facility manager (Vitor Serrão - vbalasco@ucsc.edu) to discuss your project ideas and feasibility. This discussion will clarify what is typically needed to get started- types and amounts of samples that are ready (or near ready) to be put on the microscope; what preliminary data can be obtained with the initial budget; and potential impact on project achievability and future grant applications.

How to apply?

Submit a one-page PDF file containing a brief overview of your project (including goals and/or preliminary data that might support project feasibility) and explaining how cryo-EM will contribute to its success and new extramural funding to cryoem@ucsc.edu. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

Evaluation Criteria

- UC-affiliated researchers (PIs/postdocs/grad-students).
- The proposal should present an appropriate and suitable target and methodology.
- The researchers should provide enough evidence of a well-behaved sample of interest.

Applications will be evaluated by the Cryo-EM working committee, with the first round of results announced on February 10th 2023.