Access and Rates

Open Access Policy

The MPML is open to all interested internal academic, external academic, and industrial users. A key aspect of the lab is extensive one-on-one training with experienced PhD-level staff. After training it is possible for users of all levels to independently operate instruments and generate data for their projects. Trained and qualified users are given 24/7 access to instruments while external users may have access during normal working hours (Mon-Fri: 8am to 6pm) when MPML staff are in the lab. The MPML is primarily a user facility but MPML staff may also provide service measurements on an as-needed basis.

Trained and qualified users may reserve instrumentation using our online scheduler.

Recharge Rates & Policies

Effective October 1st, 2016

Recharge recovery is necessary to sustain the ongoing viability of the MPML and support service contracts, equipment maintenance, and user training. A flat per group User Facility Access Fee allows most instruments to be utilized without hourly user charges. Instruments and rates are organized into Tiers based on complexity. Users are responsible for all consumables including cuvettes, solvents, pipettes, coverslips, AFM tips, SEM stubs, evaporation materials, precious metals, etc. Some consumables (e.g.: AFM tips, deposition materials, and 3D printer materials) may be purchased from the MPML at pass-through cost.

Below is a summary of internal access rates. Please see our comprehensive rate tables for more information and specifics for external users.

**User Facility Access Fee: $150 per Quarter per research group**

Provides user access to all MPML instrumentation, training for Tier 0 instruments, and ongoing support. Fee is charged Quarterly and covers up to 10 users per PI group.

**Instrument User Fees:**

1. **Tiers 0, 1, 2, & 3:** No hourly charge. Use included with Facility Access Fee.
2. **Tier 4 (SEMs):** $35/hr
3. **Staff Assistance or Instrument Operation:** $60/hr plus regular user fee (if any).

**Instrument Training Fees:**

Flat one-time per-user training fees are collected for Tier 1-4 instruments according to complexity and time required. Most training and practice sessions may be completed in 2 to 4 hours, although occasionally more time may be required.

1. **Tier 0:** No charge. Included with Facility Access Fee.
2. **Tier 1-2:** $90 flat training fee per user.
3. **Tier 3-4:** $240 flat training fee per user.

**Staff Service and Consulting:**

- Special projects, consulting, and measurements as service by staff: $60/hr plus regular user fee (if any).

**Supplies and Consumables:**

1. **AFM cantilevers:** The MPML maintains a small stock of standard cantilever types. Probes may be purchased at cost.
2. **Coating and Evaporation materials:** Materials and precious metals are recharged per coated nm at cost.
3. **3D Printer materials:** 3D printer materials are recharged per gram at cost.

**Instrument Tier Summary:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>Instruments</th>
<th>User Fee ($) /hr</th>
<th>Training Fee ($) /user</th>
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</thead>
</table>
External Access

- **Academic and Non-Profit external users**: Rates and fees as above plus overhead.
  - Note: Northwestern and UIC users may be considered internal academic users as per inter-institution agreement
- **Industrial and For-Profit external users**: Rates and fees as above multiplied by 2.
- All External users must provide a valid PO before access is granted or services are rendered.

Acknowledgement of Support