
1. AQUAEXCEL project information

Ghent University is partner in the FP7 project AQUAEXCEL (<http://www.aquaexcel.eu>) funded by the European Commission and launched in March 2011. AQUAEXCEL aims to coordinate and improve access to top class European aquaculture research facilities. On a regular basis, the project invites proposals from European research groups to utilize the facilities of any of the participating 23 Aquaculture Research Infrastructures.

For more information on the project, please consult www.aquaexcel.eu

2. How to access our Research Facility

Researchers from any EU or Associated State can apply for access to any of the AQUAEXCEL Research Infrastructures. Applications must be made to use a Research Infrastructure in a different country to that of the lead researcher. Details of the other Research Infrastructures available within AQUAEXCEL can be found on www.aquaexcel.eu and on each institution website.

Each Research Infrastructure has a budget based on units of access, which are detailed for Ghent University on this page. Access to the facilities is provided free of charge to users and travel and subsistence expenses will also be paid. In general, it is anticipated that access will be in the form of one or in some cases two scientists travelling to work at one of the Research Infrastructures for a period of between one and three months.

Applications for Transnational Access may be made by any organisation (including commercial companies), but the conditions of access require the results of the work to be published and made available to the scientific community via standard channels.

Applications for Transnational Access should be made in accordance with the guidance published in regular “Calls for Proposals” that are made available on the project website (www.aquaexcel.eu). Applicants are also encouraged to directly contact individual facilities to discuss their research plans in advance of submitting an application.

Applications for Transnational Access will be reviewed by an expert selection panel and an independent ethics adviser. Projects selected for Transnational Access will be expected to demonstrate high scientific quality, make efficient use of resources and effectively address issues important for the development of European aquaculture – e.g. as expressed through the Strategic Research Agendas of the European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (www.eatip.eu).

All Transnational Access projects must be carried out between October 2011 and January 2015. It is anticipated that individual Research Infrastructures will only be included in the six-monthly calls for access as long as there are remaining units of access available.