

OLYMPUS VS120 DIGITAL SCANNER ACCESS POLICY

Fast High-Definition Scanning

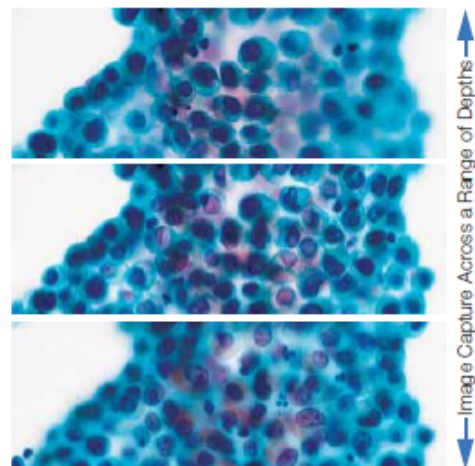
■ Wide Range of Objectives from 2x to 100x

The VS120 comes standard with Olympus UPLSAPO 2x, 10x, 20x and 40x objectives, allowing the user to choose an objective most suitable for his or her research needs. Automatic specimen recognition capability limits scanning to the specimen area, with high-level color fidelity and image quality.



■ Virtual-Z, 3D Virtual Slide Production

Multi-plane virtual slides can be produced by specifying attributes such as depth for multiple areas, range, number of planes, and magnification. The Virtual-Z scanning function allows the user to change the depth of the image simply by scrolling a mouse, making it easy to focus through the depth at any region of interest. Such functionality is particularly advantageous for viewing thicker specimens such as cell clusters or cranial nerves.

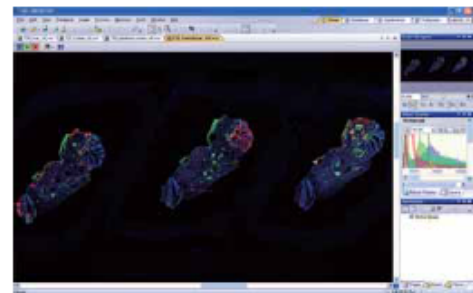


■ Automation Enhances Laboratory Efficiency

An optional automated slide loader with a capacity to hold 100 slides adds efficiency to laboratories with high throughput requirements. Furthermore, specimen information can be automatically read using 1D and 2D barcode scanner, making it easier to store and organize information.

■ Supporting High-resolution, High-sensitivity Virtual Fluorescent Slides

High-speed filter wheels of the optional fluorescent unit can be installed on both the excitation and observation side, enabling the swift production of fluorescent virtual slides with high-level definition and resolution. Multi-colored virtual slides also can be prepared for long-term observation, negating concerns over fading, discoloration, and degradation.



To all potential users:

Please consider the planning of your experimental slides to be scanned. Make best use of the space available on each slide. Remember the scanner can be setup to scan multiple individual scan areas for an individual slide.

If you have any queries then please contact the CMI facility scientist responsible for the VS120 to discuss what is your most efficient (time and cost) use of the scanner.

Preamble

The mission of the Centre for Microscopy and Imaging (CMI) at the National University of Ireland Galway, (NUIG's core imaging node, and member of the National Bio-photonics and Imaging Platform NBIPi consortium and the Eurobioimaging platform) is to provide access to and training in a variety of high-end light and electron microscopes and cutting-edge imaging software and analysis tools.

Our principle goals are to:

- Provide access to high-end acquisition and analysis workstations.
- Provide expertise in microscopy, imaging and analysis specialising in various cell and tissue phenotypes.
- Maintain instruments and workstations to ensure quality and efficiency.
- Invest/develop new technologies that will enhance the capabilities of the CMI.
- Maintain an institute-wide image storage facility for better and safer archiving of all image or image-related documents.
- Link to other European and worldwide microscopy and imaging networks.

Giving access to key instrumentation both on campus and across the country, to a wide range of users, is a keystone of the philosophy behind the setup of the CMI.

Definitions

Prior to determining the access policy, a clear definition of user is required in order to set limits and obligations which need to be encompassed in the Access Policy. These are set out below:

Internal Users

Users from NUIG only.

External Users

Users from other Irish institutions, government bodies or industrial organisations.

Premium Users

Capital funders of the scanner.

Training

To minimise the risk of equipment damage and to support the appropriate collection and interpretation of data all users must receive training in the use of equipment. All researchers interested in using the VS120 should contact the CMI facility scientist responsible to apply for access and/or schedule training. The appropriate contact person is listed on the CMI website.

The facility director or their nominee reserve the right to deny any application for training if the necessary equipment is in high demand by trained users and an increased number of users will impede the on-going research of trained users.

Prior to initiating any training, a representative of the laboratory of the host institution will discuss the nature of the proposed experiments with the applicant and identify likely outputs and approximate time required to undertake the study.

Stage 1

The facility scientist (or other responsible person) will explain the:

- background theory of the instrument
- capabilities of the instrument set-up and operation for basic experiments
- safety issues relating to the instrument to be used

Where possible, they will demonstrate the instrument's capabilities using test pieces appropriate to the user's application. At the end of the session, the user's understanding will be assessed by the facility scientist.

Stage 2

Prior to becoming an independent user, users must agree and successfully complete a comprehensive training programme defined by the facility scientist or nominee. Prior to being allowed independent access to the equipment, one or more sessions will be organised during which the user will work independently on the equipment while the facility scientist (or other responsible person) is available for questions.

After the user and the facility scientist agrees that the user is competent to work independently with the equipment, billing information should be provided by the user to the facility director or nominee (This billing information may be used for any potential costs incurred by the user i.e. repairing of damage caused to the instrument by the user, consumables, training). The user will then be allowed make bookings on the system which will in turn be approved by the facility scientist or nominee.

Irrespective of their status, all users must not modify any aspect of the instrument's physical configuration under any circumstance other than that possible using the user software interface.

Cost to access the CMI facilities

1. Training

Prior to any access to the VS120 Digital Scanner facility, training costs are €50.

Before the user is agreed to be competent to work independently, an hourly rate will be applied for use of the instrument which is €10p/h

2. Access by NUI Galway researchers.

- 0-50 slides @ €5 per slide
- >50 slides @ 3.50 per slide

No of Slides	Cost €
5	25
10	50
20	100
25	125
50	250
100	350
200	700

Access to the scanner can be arranged on a per annum basis. Please contact facility director or nominee for further information.

Premium users will access scanner with costs @ 50% of above rates.

External Users will be charged @ NUIG rates +50%. Usage will be at discretion of Facility Director or Nominee.

ACCESS PRIORITY

Local NUI Galway Researchers are the first priority.

ACCESS WORKFLOW

Booking will be made through the CMI web-site for assessment. Projects will be assessed by a CMI facility scientist.

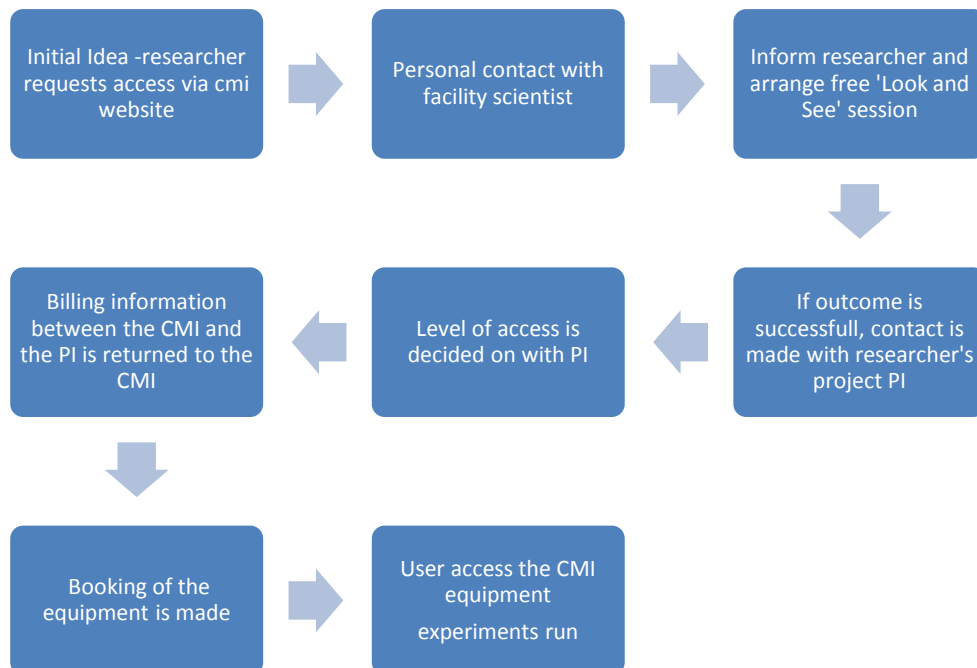
The procedure for scheduling use of equipment is as follows.

For new users and those who require training:

1. User browses cmi website (www.imaging.nuigalway.ie) and contacts the cmi via the online booking form.
2. A member of the CMI will then contact the new user and arrange a meeting to discuss the project
3. A free 'look and see' session is scheduled on that equipment.
4. Based on the results of the look and see session, contact is made with the PI involved in the project and agreement is made to the level of access required.
5. No user may sign up for equipment without prior permission from the Facility Director or facility scientists.
6. Using the equipment without signing up is prohibited and may result in disbarment.

For trained users:

1. User browses cmi website (www.imaging.nuigalway.ie) and contacts the cmi via the online booking form.
2. A member of the CMI will then contact the user to confirm the booking request.



Damages

All users are fully responsible for costs of repairing any damage including spares, engineer time, travel costs etc. Any other related costs i.e. consumables and advanced training is at the discretion of the Facility Director or nominee.

Core Time

Between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Thursday on a normal working day. Batch Scanning will normally be performed overnight.

CMI ORGANISATION

The CMI has the following full time scientists who oversee the operational aspects of the facilities. The facility scientists are responsible for ensuring instrumentation is available for the maximum time that it can be and for data collection to enable reporting. They are listed below:

Group	Facility Scientist
CMI Light Microscopy	Dr. Peter Owens
CMI Light Microscopy	Dr. Kerry Thompson
CMI Electron Microscopy	Mr. Pierce Lalor
CMI Digital Scanner	Mr Mark Webber
CMI liaison NCBES Light Microscopy	Mr. David Connolly
CMI liaison NCBES Electron Microscopy	Ms. Eadaoin Timmins
OTHERS	OTHERS
CMI facility director	Prof. Peter Dockery

GRIEVANCES

Grievances related to instrument and facility access are to be reported to the facility director, and will be handled in accordance with the procedures of that CMI.

There will be a Directorate of key imaging stakeholders.

**CMI Facility Director Professor Peter Dockery
May 2012**