Australian Synchrotron
Turning bright ideas into brilliant outcomes

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Accessing Beamtime at the Australian Synchrotron

Karen Siu

User Program Coordinator

Supported by
Australian Government
State Government Victoria

MODES OF ACCESS

All proposals for beamtime must be submitted via the online proposal system

portal.synchrotron.org.au

NORMAL PROPOSALS

Peer reviewed on the basis of scientific merit.

user.office@synchrotron.org.au

MERIT

3 calls for proposals per year

MX COLLABORATIVE ACCESS PROGRAM

One call for proposals per year

RAPID ACCESS

Within standard round (usually MX only)

COMMERCIAL PROPOSALS

Paid access for work that is proprietary and unlikely to be published.

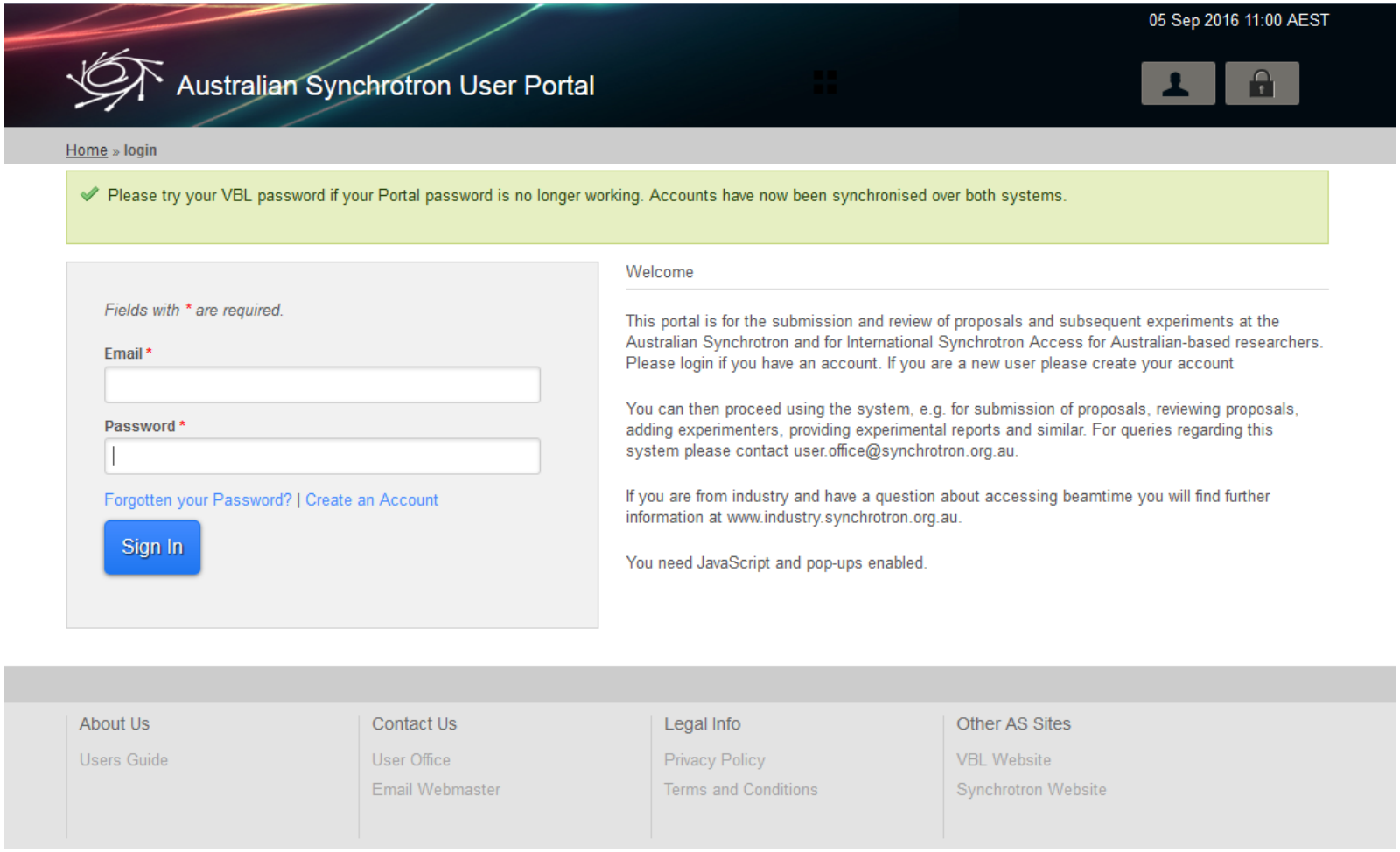
kerry.hayes@synchrotron.org.au

HOW ARE MERIT PROPOSALS ASSESSED?

- 4 scientific reviewers score:
  - Quality of the Scientific Proposal (40%)
  - National Benefit & Applications of the Proposed Research (30%)
  - Track Record (relative to opportunity) (30%)
  - Need for Synchrotron Light (yes/no only)
- AS staff review technical feasibility and safety aspects
- Scores are collated and reviewed by the Program Advisory Committee (PAC) for each beamline. The PAC ranks proposals, excluding those which do not meet the feasibility and need for synchrotron radiation hurdles
- The Head of Science conducts final review

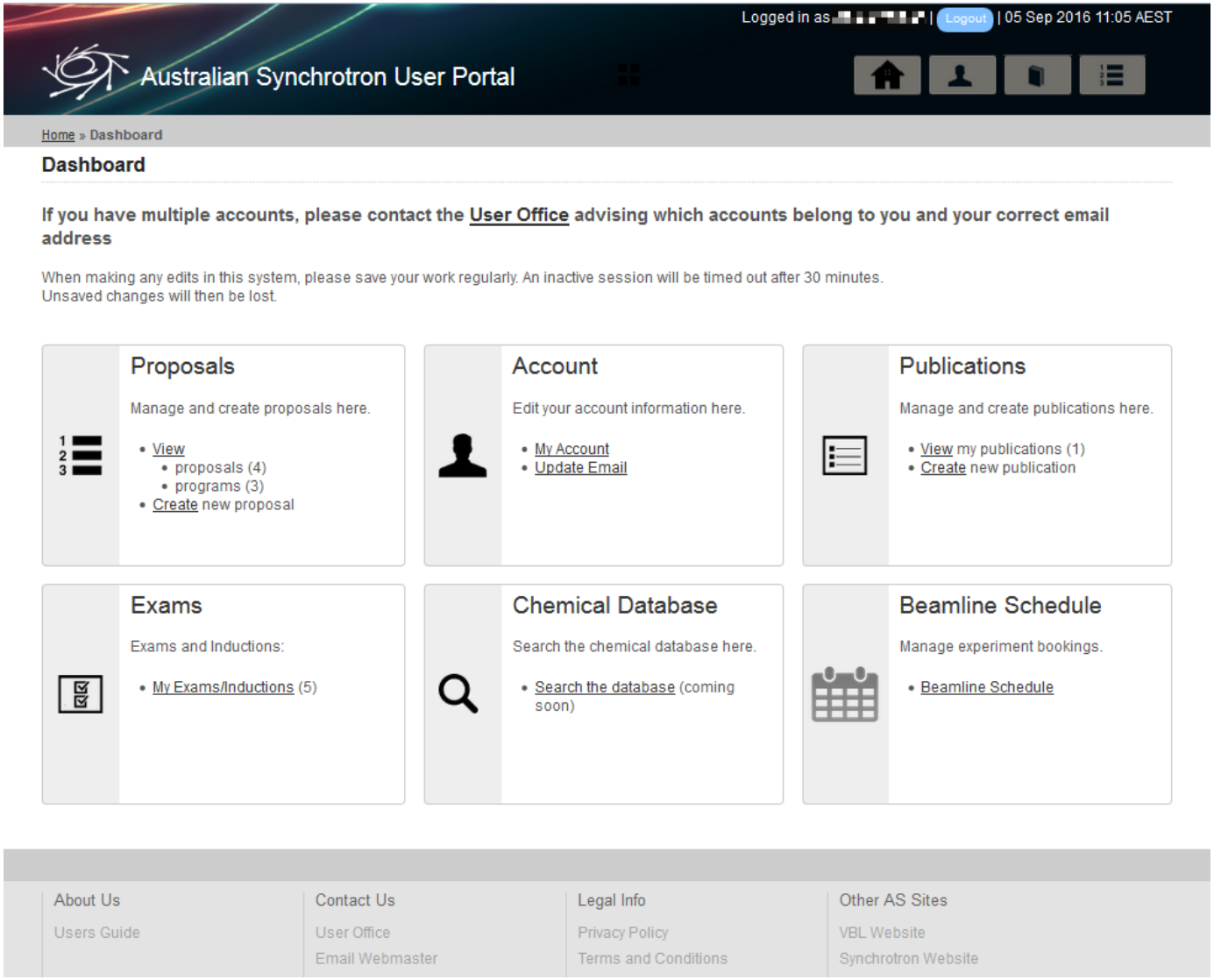
ONLINE PROPOSAL PORTAL

portal.synchrotron.org.au

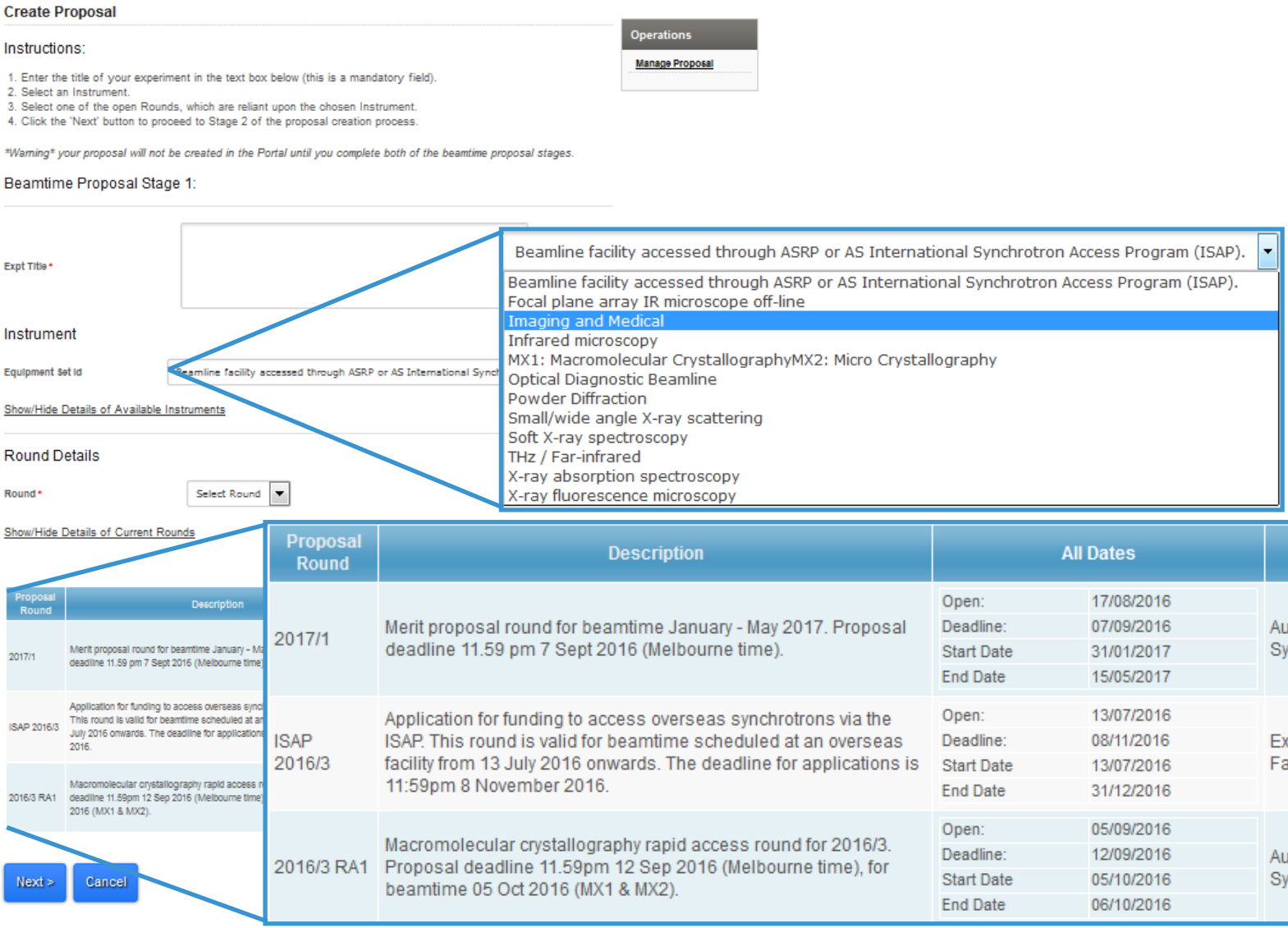


Portal account holders receive regular reminders of deadlines (opt out possible)

ACCOUNT HOME PAGE



CREATING A PROPOSAL



Proposal Round	Description	All Dates		Facility Name
2017/1	Merit proposal round for beamtime January - May 2017. Proposal deadline 11.59 pm 7 Sept 2016 (Melbourne time).	Open:	17/08/2016	Australian Synchrotron
		Deadline:	07/09/2016	
		Start Date	31/01/2017	
		End Date	15/05/2017	
ISAP 2016/3	Application for funding to access overseas synchrotrons via the ISAP. This round is valid for beamtime scheduled at an overseas facility from 13 July 2016 onwards. The deadline for applications is 11:59pm 8 November 2016.	Open:	13/07/2016	External Facility
		Deadline:	08/11/2016	
		Start Date	13/07/2016	
		End Date	31/12/2016	
2016/3 RA1	Macromolecular crystallography rapid access round for 2016/3. Proposal deadline 11.59pm 12 Sep 2016 (Melbourne time), for beamtime 05 Oct 2016 (MX1 & MX2).	Open:	05/09/2016	Australian Synchrotron
		Deadline:	12/09/2016	
		Start Date	05/10/2016	
		End Date	06/10/2016	

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PROPOSAL

SCIENTIFIC PURPOSE & IMPORTANCE

- Why is the work important?
- Describe the aims of the experiment and what information you expect to get out of the beamtime
- National benefit and applications
  - Alignment with national research priorities
  - Evidence of impact to consumers or adopters, e.g. funding/grants, industry partnerships, patents etc.
  - Impact can be economic, environmental, health, social or cultural

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PROPOSAL

Experiment | Researchers | Beamline | Samples | Figures | Submit

PROPOSED EXPERIMENT

- Describe the experimental plan
  - Temperatures required for the measurement (RT, cryostat, furnace?)
  - X-ray/IR energies required
- Samples
  - Physical form of the sample (solid, liquid, crystal, powder)
  - Dimensions of sample and sample mounting (custom sample holder?)



- How does experiment align with BL capabilities?
  - Include results of the previous experiments and/or complementary data from lab techniques
- Justify the time requested in detail
  - E.g. 5 samples x 10 temperature steps x 3 energies
  - Time is allocated in shifts of 8 hours (3 shifts per day)
- Describe how you will analyse your data
- **<u>Consult beamline scientists before writing your proposal</u>**

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PROPOSAL

EXPERIENCE OF PARTICIPANTS AND OUTCOMES OF PREVIOUS EXPERIMENTS

- A description of the experience of all applicants on the proposal
- List all AS funded synchrotron experiments performed during the last 3 years and give a brief description of the outcomes, such as publications.
- If you are a new user, include your publication record for the last 3 years.
- Be sure to update AS related publications in your account (these will automatically be added to your proposal)

NEED FOR SYNCHROTRON RADIATION

- Why do you need synchrotron radiation for this work?
- Why can’t it be done with laboratory facilities?

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PROPOSAL

RESEARCHERS NAMED ON THE PROPOSAL

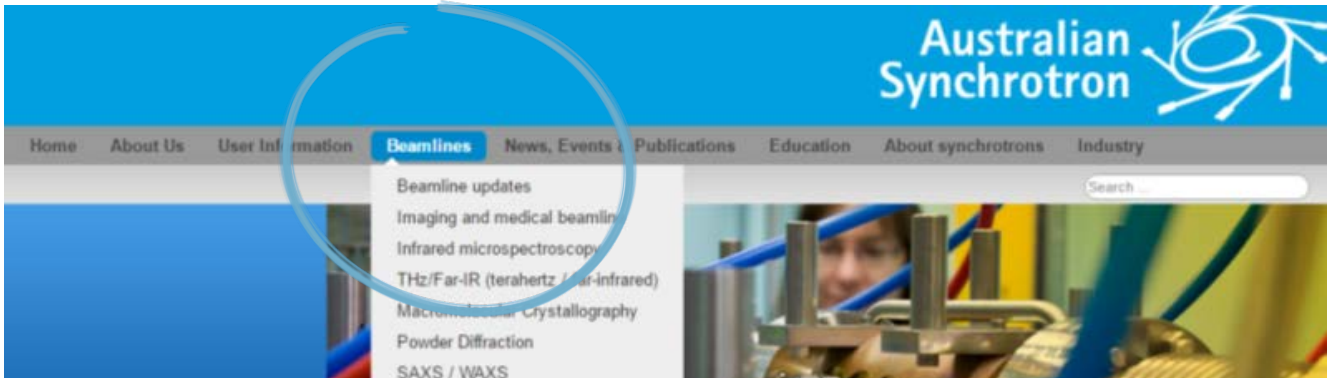
- Researchers listed on proposal do not have to attend beamtime
- Researchers that attend the beamtime do not have to be listed on the proposal
- Consider collaborating with an expert user and/or beamline scientist
- Students cannot be the Principal Scientist (but can be editors) on a proposal

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PROPOSAL

Experiment | Researchers | Beamline | Samples | Figures | Submit

BEAMLINE DETAILS

- Choose number of shifts – each shift is 8 hours – highly dependent on beamline
  - You may specify impossible dates, but the beamline cannot guarantee any particular dates
- Make your choice strategic and justifiable
- Some beamlines require extra information – be sure to consult the ‘Beamline updates’ section of our website for the latest requirements
- **Consult the beamline scientists**



WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PROPOSAL

- The Submit page will warn you if items are missing or incomplete in your proposal
- Check the pdf version of your proposal carefully – this is the version that the reviewers will receive
- Save, save, save your proposal frequently (30 minute timeout)
- Make sure you submit!!
- Be aware of the deadlines – NO EXTENSIONS ARE POSSIBLE!
  - Note that AS proposal deadlines are different to separate from other ANSTO instrument proposal deadlines (Australian Centre for Neutron Scattering, Centre for Accelerator Science, Deuteration etc.)

TRAVEL FUNDING

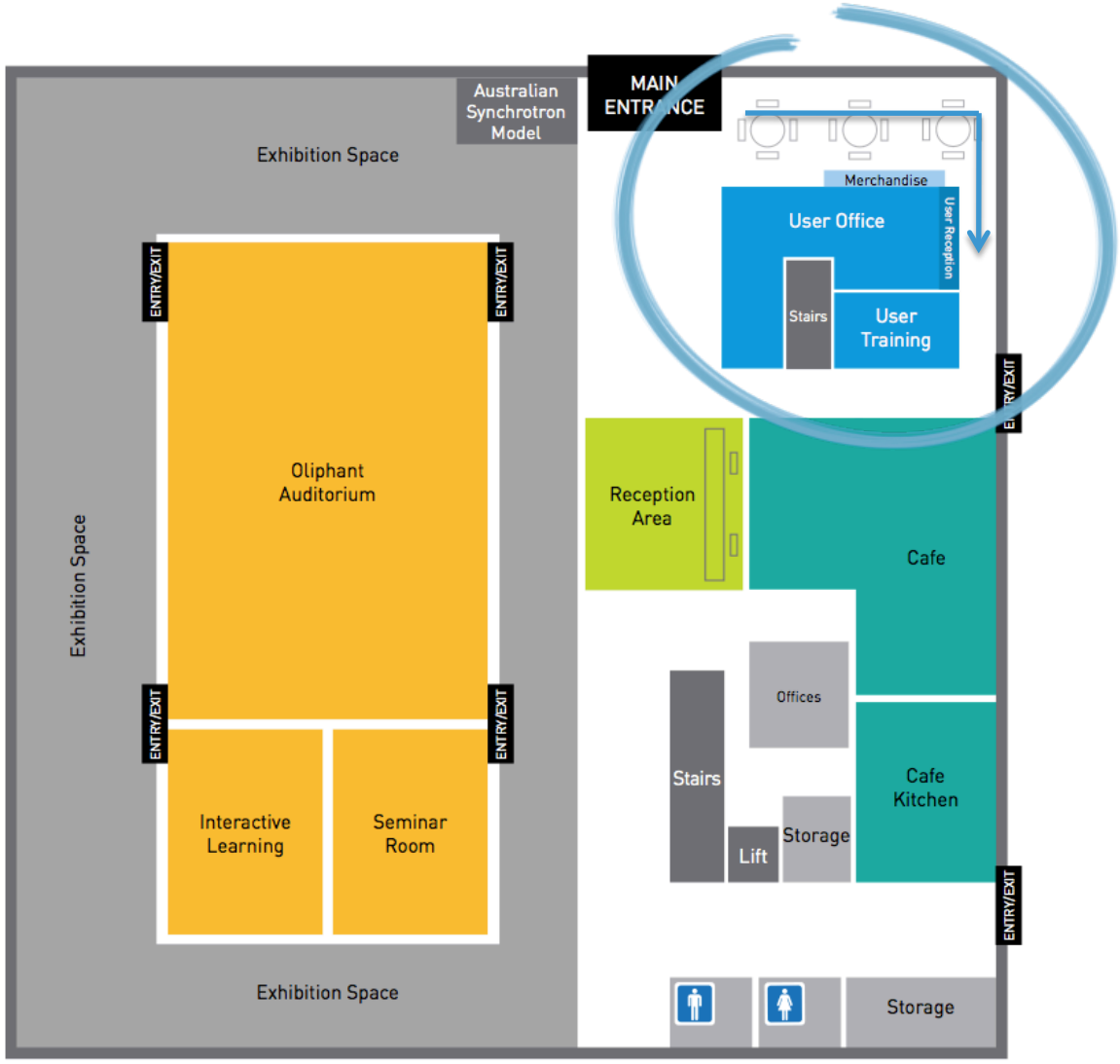
TRAVELLING TO THE AUSTRALIAN SYNCHROTRON

- Flights and ground transport funding is provided for interstate and NZ users up to 3 people per experiment
- Accommodation at the Australian Synchrotron Guesthouse

TRAVELLING TO INTERNATIONAL SYNCHROTRONS

- International Synchrotron Access Program (ISAP)
- Has been approved by a review committee of an overseas synchrotron
- Applications judged on the basis of need and of strategic importance to the development of the Australian research community
- Can be submitted anytime, but proposals are reviewed 3 times per year

USER OFFICE LOCATION



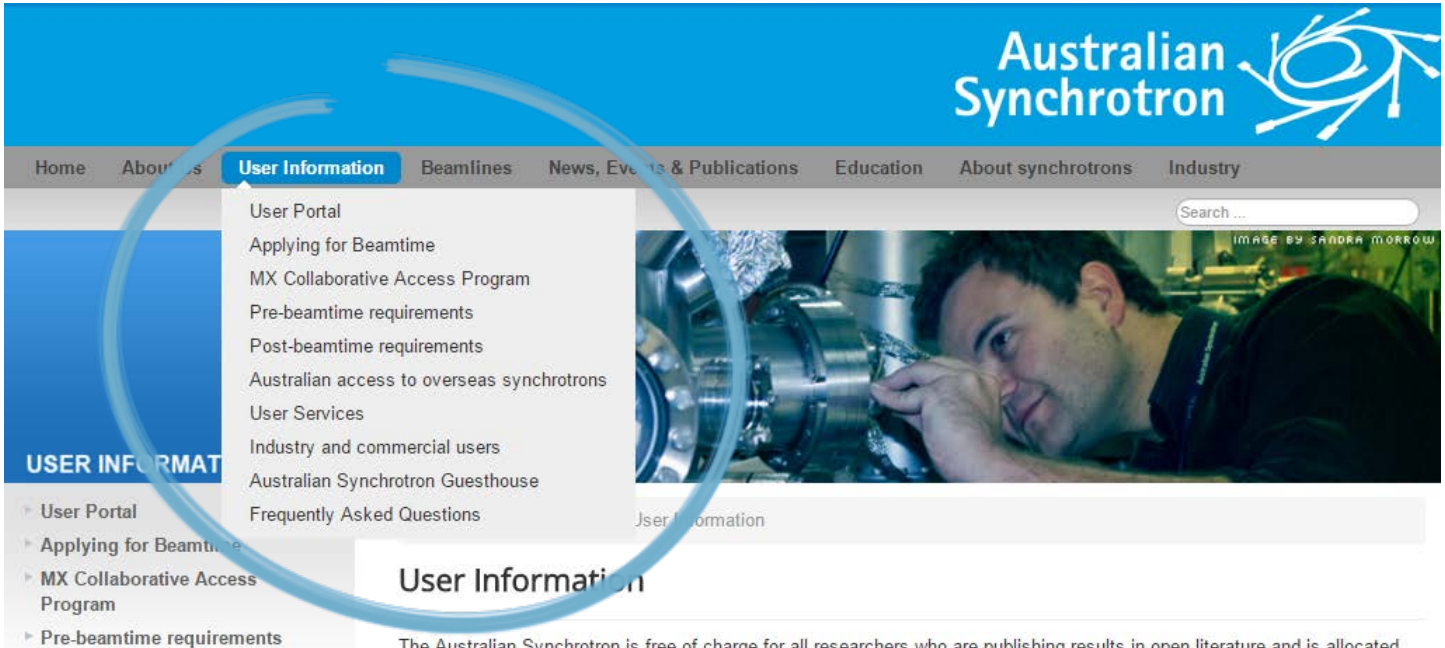
CONTACT

user.office@synchrotron.org.au

Ph: (03) 8540 4193 or

(03) 8540 4217

www.synchrotron.org.au



OTHER INSTRUMENT PORTALS

- Australian Centre for Neutron Scattering (neutron beam instruments and National Deuteration Facility)
  - Contact: bragg-user-office@ansto.gov.au
  - Portal: http://neutron.ansto.gov.au/
  - Phone: +61 2 9717 7232

- ANSTO Interim Research Portal (all other instruments)
  - Contact: nstuseroffice@ansto.gov.au
  - Portal: http://portal.ansto.gov.au/
  - Phone: +61 2 9717 7232