User Fees

sciCORE User Fees | sciCORE+ User Fees

The following fees apply for usage of the sciCORE HPC facility. The cost model has been approved by the SNF and these user fees should be used in grant applications to account for core facility access cost estimates.

The University of Basel and the SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics are providing baseline funding, which allows sciCORE to provide basic infrastructure, training, and consulting without cost. Only services beyond this baseline are subject to usage fees (see notes below).

Usage fees as of 1.1.2026:

Compute Cost

Name	Description	internal Uni Basel [1,2]	external academic	external non-academic
CPU	Any Volume	CHF 0.002 / hour	CHF 0.008 / hour	CHF 0.16 / hour
GPU		CHF 0.03 / hour	CHF 0.6 / hour	CHF 3 / hour

Storage Cost

Name	Description	internal Uni Basel [1,2]	external academic	external non-academic
Deep Storage	Offline storage (Deep Storage)	CHF 7.5 / TB/year	CHF 30 / TB/year [5]	
Storage	HPC Storage (<100TB)	CHF 25 / TB/y	CHF 100 / TB/y	CHF 200 / TB/y
	HPC Storage (>100TB)	CHF 15 / TB/y	CHF 100 / TB/y	CHF 200 / TB/y

Support Cost

Name	Description	internal Uni Basel [1,2]	external academic	external non-academic
Scientific and programming support	Scientific consulting and programming support	CHF 80 / hour [6]	CHF 80 / hour [6]	CHF 180 / hour [8]

0. **General conditions:**
   - Storage allocation is subject to availability.
   - Storage cost includes backup.
   - Storage is assessed per group on a daily basis and charged as a monthly summary.
   - Billing is on a per-PI / group basis (e.g. professors, core facilities, service units, or similar).
   - Financial contributions to sciCORE by departmental and/or groups to the shared sciCORE infrastructure pool will be taken into account in billing for the current year. Please contact us ahead of time for planning investments to the sciCORE infrastructure. Depreciation for investments > 100 kCHF will be accounted for during max. 4 consecutive years.
   - Basic consulting in the usage of the HPC facility (incl. software and databases) as well as initial consulting for scientific projects, is free of charge (see also note [5]).

1. University of Basel pricing applies to members of the University of Basel and to users at the university hospitals in Basel (USB, UKBB, UPK, …) for research and teaching purposes. A University of Basel user account (i.e. @unibas.ch e-mail address) is required. In all other cases, fees for *External academic collaborators* apply.

2. For University of Basel groups (see also note [1]), fees for storage and compute access are subsidized. No invoices are issued for small utilization of IT infrastructure (current threshold: 1'000 CHF/year, equivalent to ~20 TB storage, ~143 K CPU-hours or ~33 K GPU-hours). These subsidy costs are covered by the sciCORE budget.

3. Tiered storage is a way to assign different categories of data:
   - Tier 1: sciCORE central storage on the cluster or PUMA (network attached storage system).
   - Tier 2: For groups requiring higher storage capacity (i.e. more than 100 TB) sciCORE provides storage at reduced costs.

4. Provisioning of storage is subject to availability of free capacity. For storage requirements of more than 100 TB, please contact us ahead of time for planning infrastructure extensions. In these cases, direct contributions to infrastructure investments are encouraged. *For groups requiring higher storage capacity (i.e. **more** than **100 TB**) sciCORE provides storage at reduced costs (Tier 2).*

5. Offline storage (aka Deep Storage) provides a mechanism to store large volumes of data at a cheaper price outside the main storage systems. This infrastructure is not directly connected to computational resources and is expected to have significant access latency. It is meant e.g. to preserve raw scientific data that do not need frequent access after initial processing. Offline storage is hosted by the University central IT-Services, current pricing model is for two copies of 1 TB of data at the indicated CHF/year. To request the transfer of your data to Deep Storage please submit a request in the user space of the sciCORE website.

6. For larger projects requiring extensive scientific support, programming effort, data analysis, or workflow and software development, these activities can be provided on a “fee for service” basis after mutual agreement between the research group and sciCORE.

7. For groups requiring more than 2 millions CPU-hours per year, sciCORE provides a backfilling queue with a lower priority. This queue will accept jobs which do not exceed 6 hours of computation time. Please contact us to use the backfilling queue.

8. Please contact us at: scicore-admin@unibas.ch

For any questions and further clarification please contact us at: scicore-admin@unibas.ch

© University of Basel / sciCORE / Legal notice