Proposal System: Documentation for Users

Proposals overview

Logging in to the Proposal System

- Accessing directly
- Accessing through the Facilities site

Creating a Proposal

- Before you start
- Create a new proposal
- Completing the proposal questions
- Notes on the information required
- Reviewing your proposal
- Submitting your proposal

Managing your proposals

- Action Icons
- Cloning a proposal
- Edit PI and Co-I
- Make your self 'addable' in the Proposal System

<u>User Office Information</u>

Further Help

Glossary of terms



Overview

The proposal system allows users to submit proposals for future experiments at CLF (Central Laser Facility) and ISIS Neutron and Muon Source.

CLF and ISIS accept proposals within specific time windows, ("calls" or "rounds"). The proposal system collects the relevant information for each submitted proposal, which is then reviewed by a panel to consider its feasibility, and if selected, allocated time.

This document has detailed information for users of the proposal system, giving you context and stepby-step guidance on using the system.

Please note, this document is updated over time.

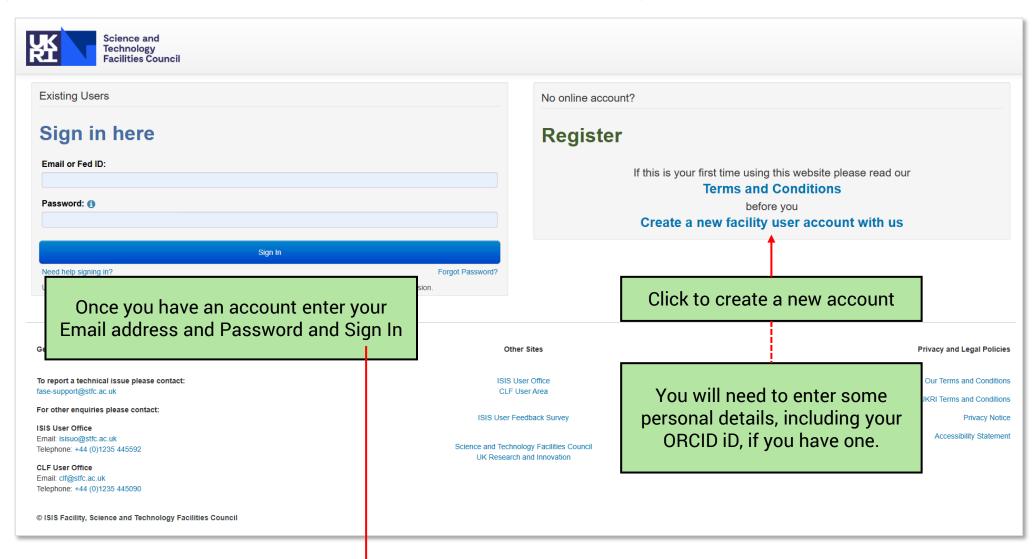
The most recent versions can be found at

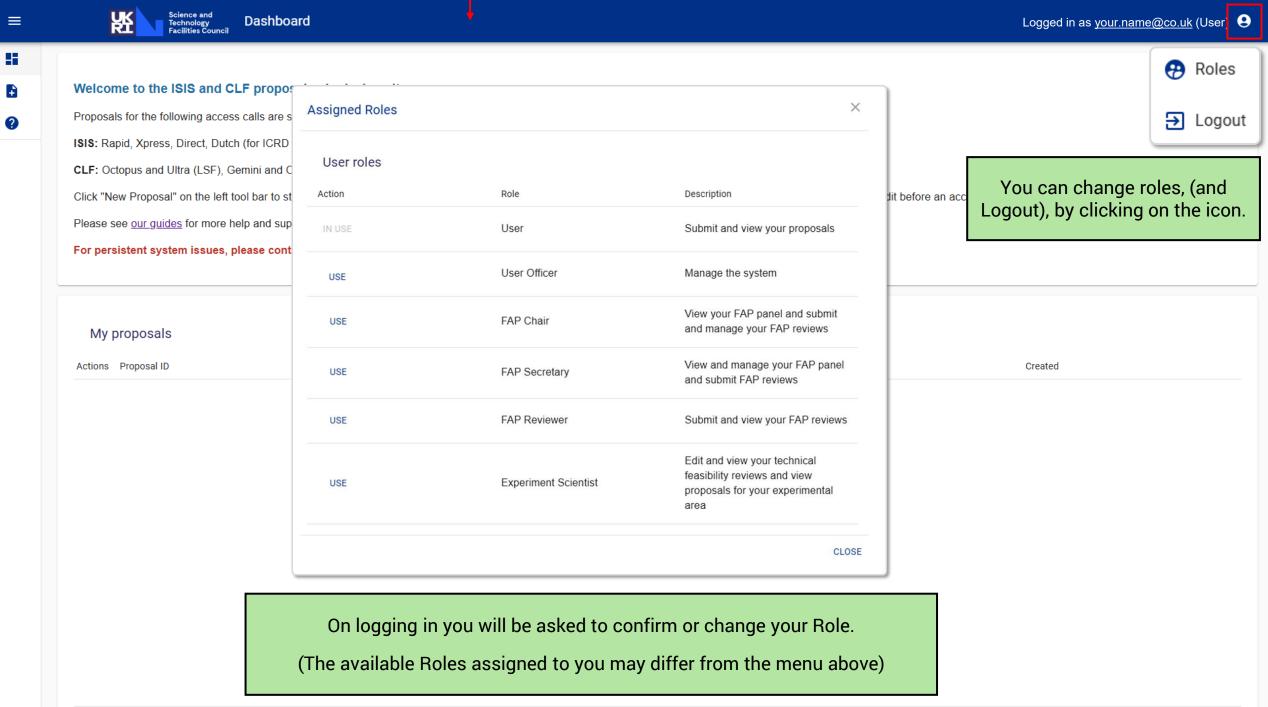
- CLF <u>Using the Proposal System</u>
- ISIS <u>Using the Proposal System</u>

Contact Information - <u>fase-support@stfc.ac.uk</u>

Accessing the proposal system directly

Go to https://proposal.facilities.rl.ac.uk/ using a supported web browser, Chrome, Edge, Safari and Opera, (Firefox and Internet Explorer are no longer supported).





4.00



Proposals for the following access calls are submitted via this portal:

ISIS: Rapid, Xpress, Direct, Dutch (for ICRD access, please contact Chris Frost)

CLF: Octopus and Ultra (LSF), Gemini and Orion (HPL), Artemis, Vulcan Shutdown Support

Click "New Proposal" on the left tool bar to start your new proposal via the correct call, or resume completion of a draft proposal from your list below (only available to edit before an access call closure).

Please see our guides for more help and support for submitting a proposal.

For persistent system issues, please contact fase-support@stfc.ac.uk

My proposals

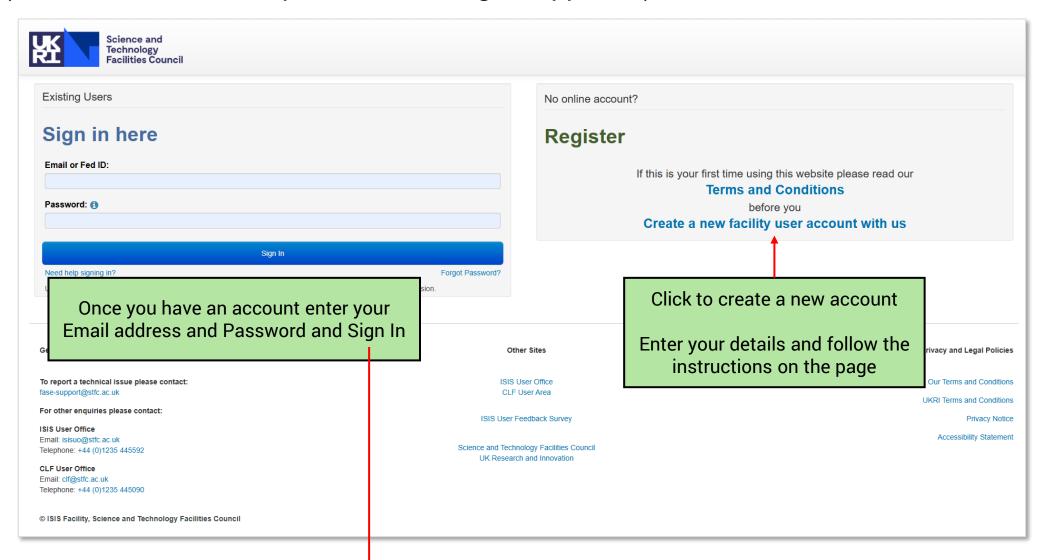
Action	s Proposal ID	Title	Status	Call	Created
o •	± 23230013	Coherent Control of Quantum States in Di	Submitted	LSF 2023_2	01-09-2022
o •	♣ 22130003	Ultrafast Dynamics of Protein Folding via	Submitted	LSF 2022_1	17-05-2021
o •	♣ 19230048	Ultrafast Melting and Recrystallization in	Submitted	LSF 2019_2	15-02-2019

Previously submitted or draft proposals will appear here.

You will also see proposals you have been added to as a co-investigator.

Accessing the proposal system through the Facilities site

Go to https://users.facilities.rl.ac.uk/ using a supported web browser, Chrome, Edge, Safari and Opera, (Firefox and Internet Explorer are no longer supported).



Staff Site

Select facility:

ISIS

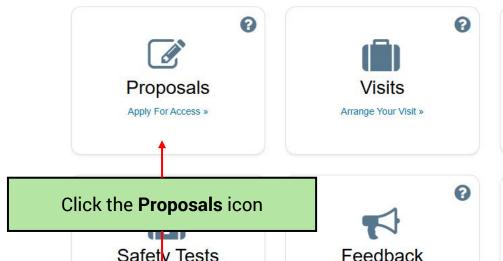
CLF

Select CLF

The Central Laser Facility (CLF) at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory is one of the world's leading laser facilities providing scientists from the UK and Europe with an unparalleled range of state of the art technology to carry out a broad range of experiments in physics, chemistry and biology. Our laser facilities range from advanced, compact tuneable lasers which can pinpoint individual particles to high power laser installations that recreate the conditions inside stars.

Provide Feedback »





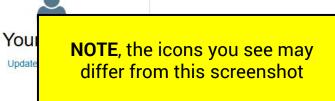
Safety Tests

Take A Test »











Welcome to the ISIS and CLF propos

Proposals for the following access calls are s

ISIS: Rapid, Xpress, Direct, Dutch (for ICRD

CLF: Octopus and Ultra (LSF), Gemini and C Click "New Proposal" on the left tool bar to st

Please see our guides for more help and sup

For persistent system issues, please cont

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Proposal ID Actions 23230013 22130003

19230048

X **Assigned Roles** User roles Role Description Action Submit and view your proposals User Manage the system User Officer USE View your FAP panel and submit FAP Chair USE and manage your FAP reviews View and manage your FAP panel **FAP Secretary** USE and submit FAP reviews **FAP Reviewer** Submit and view your FAP reviews USE Edit and view your technical feasibility reviews and view **Experiment Scientist** USE proposals for your experimental CLOSE

dit before an access call closure)

Created

01-09-2022

17-05-2021

15-02-2019

On logging in you will be asked to confirm or change your Role.

(The available Roles assigned to you may differ from the menu above)







Welcome to the ISIS and CLF proposal submission site

Proposals for the following access calls are submitted via this portal:

ISIS: Rapid, Xpress, Direct, Dutch (for ICRD access, please contact Chris Frost)

CLF: Octopus and Ultra (LSF), Gemini and Orion (HPL), Artemis, Vulcan Shutdown Support

Click "New Proposal" on the left tool bar to start your new proposal via the correct call, or resume completion of a draft proposal from your list below (only available to edit before an access call closure)

Please see our guides for more help and support for submitting a proposal.

For persistent system issues, pleas

Clicking on a column heading will sort in ascending $lack {f }$ or descending $lack {f }$ order.



My proposals

Actions	Proposal ID ↑	Title ↓	Status Ψ	Call ↓	Created Ψ
◎ ⓑ ±	23230013	Coherent Control of Quantum States in Di	Submitted	LSF 2023_2	01-09-2022
⊙ ⓑ ±	22130003	Ultrafast Dynamics of Protein Folding via	Submitted	LSF 2022_1	17-05-2021
⊙ ଢ ±	19230048	Ultrafast Melting and Recrystallization in	Submitted	LSF 2019_2	15-02-2019

Previously submitted or draft proposals will appear here.

You will also see proposals you have been added to as a co-investigator.

Creating a Proposal - Before you start

The information you provide allows the panel to make their judgements and rate the proposal. Once successful, it then supplies the instrument scientists and support staff with the key information they need to setup and conduct your experiment.

In order to fill out a proposal, you will require the following information.

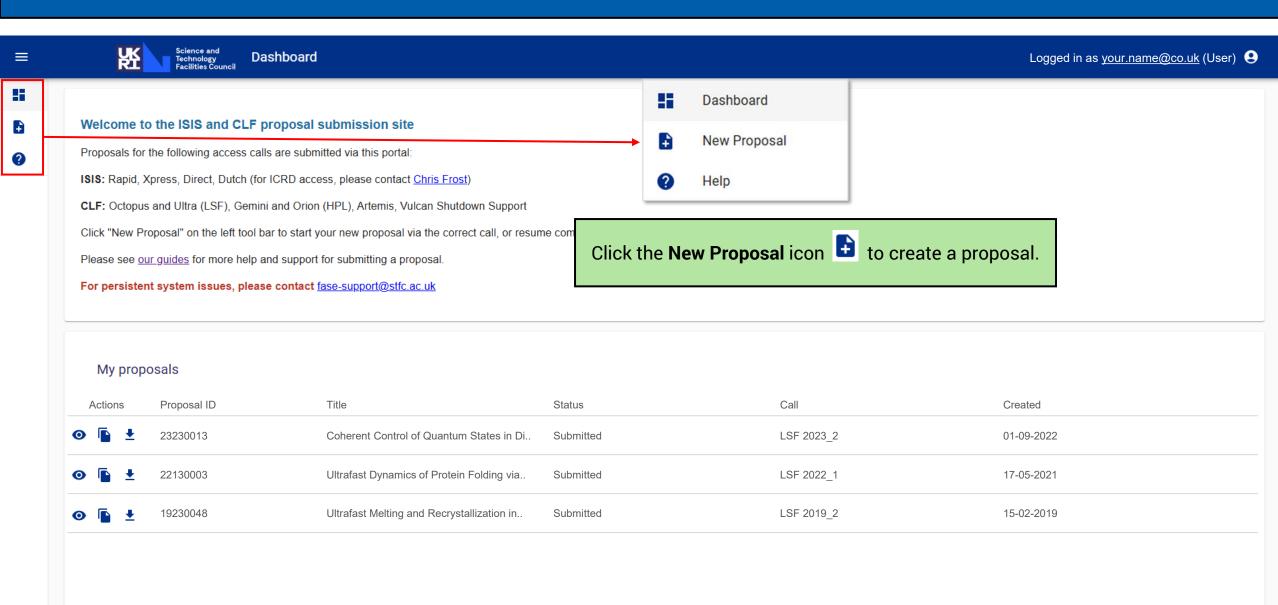
- A digital copy of your science case
- Full contact details of all experimenters
 - Full names
 - Email address
 - Contact details
 - Establishment information

Supporting information for your proposal

- Abstract
- Publications
- Sample information

NOTE: All experimenters need a Facilities account **and** have made themselves 'addable' via their <u>Privacy settings</u>.

Create a new proposal



Select a call

ISIS Rapid Access (ISIS Rapid 2025_0)

Select the call you wish to submit to.

The number of calls available at any time can vary, so you may only have one option.

If you are unsure which to select, please contact the appropriate user office for further information.

- CLF User Office: Tel +44 (0)1235 445090
- ISIS Neutron and Muon Source User Office: +44 (0)1235 445592

CLF LSF (Octopus & Ultra) Direct and Ongoing Approved Programme call for access (26-1) (LSF 2026_1)

Application deadline: 05-08-2025 17:00 (7 days remaining) Internal deadline: 05-08-2025 17:00 (7 days remaining)

Proposals are invited for Direct Access and continuation of ongoing, approved programmes. Deadline for submissions is 17:00 BST Tuesday 5 August 2025

LSF 2026_1

ISIS Xpress Access (ISIS Xpress 2025_9)

Application deadline: 31-12-2025 23:55 Internal deadline: 31-12-2025 23:55

Applications for simple sample measurements at the ISIS Facility. All Xpress Access proposals must be discussed with an instrument scientist prio

to submission

ISIS Xpress Access

Only active calls accepting proposals are displayed.







New Proposal



THIS CALL IS FOR the CLF LSF Facility - Direct Access and ongoing/approved progamme access only

For system issues, please contact: fase-support@stfc.ac.uk

The call is for access to the Ultra and Octopus laser facilities for Direct Access and ongoing/approved progamme access only

Please ensure you have read the information on the <u>call webpage</u> before submitting your proposal.

Lastname

This system will automatically log out after 30 minutes of inactivity, and any unsaved changes will be lost.

Please note that the following information may be made publicly viewable:

- Title
- Abstract
- · PI and Co-I names and institutions
- · Facility applied for, and no. weeks applied for and allocated

Proposal Title * Proposal Abstract * Only printable ASCII characters are allowed. Principal Investigator * Your Name, your Organisation Co-Proposers Actions Firstname Preferred name Institution

No Users

To add another investigator to your proposal, the investigator must have created an account with us and have their preferences set to searchable. Please encourage your colleague to create an account and set their preferences to searchable if you're unable to add them to your proposal.

Who have you contacted at the CLF to discuss your requirements?*

BACK RESET SAVE SAVE AND CONTINUE

Please contact fase-support@stfc.ac.uk if you encounter any technical issues with this system.

Terms and Conditions and Legal Notices | STFC | UK Research and Innovation

FAQ

This is an example of how the questions and sections appear on the **Create Proposal** page(s). For information and advice on filling out the proposal questions, please see the following pages.

NOTE: The questions you are required to complete will vary depending on the Call.

Completing the proposal questions



The questions are spread across multiple sections. (You may have fewer or more sections depending on the route chosen).

- Each section can have multiple questions
- You can only complete each section in order
- You can view the various sections and their associated questions before you start
- Click on the numbered buttons to view each individual section
- There are varying types of question, e.g. dropdown choices, number values, text etc...
- You may be required to upload documents to support your proposal

If you have queries about completing your proposal, e.g. how much detail is required, or what a term means, please contact the User Office, clf@stfc.ac.uk or isisuo@stfc.ac.uk.

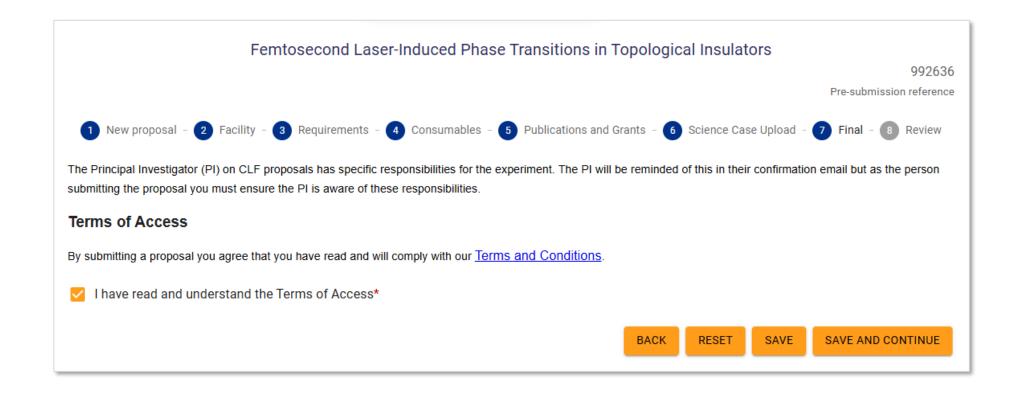
Notes on the information required

The questions vary for each call, but here are some examples of what information may be required.

- 1 New proposal 2 Facility 3 Requirements 4 Consumables 5 Publications and Grants 6 Science Case Upload 7 Final 8 Review
- New Proposal. Title, Abstract, PI and CO-I.
 Ensure the principal investigator is set to the appropriate person and add any <u>co-proposers</u>, involved with the experiment, (Co-Investigators or Co-Is).
- Facility. Questions regarding the facility and area, access route, and any industrial links.
- Requirements. Technical requirements, including details of the laser parameters and apparatus.
- Consumables. Information regarding consumables, individual cost estimates and a written case, (depending on the cost consumables cost).
- Publications and Grants. Publications from your research group and active grants that are relevant to this
 proposal.

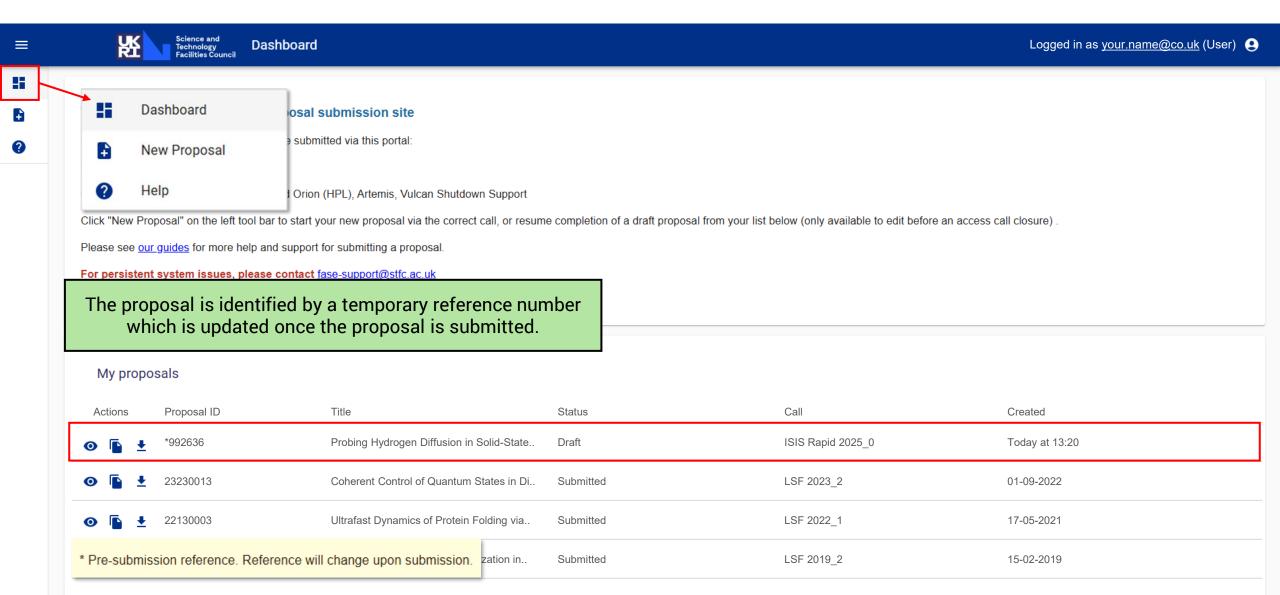
- Science Case Upload. This is a <u>PDF file upload ONLY</u>, and there are restrictions on this file; a maximum of 2 A4 pages and up to 10MB total size. Files exceeding limits cannot be uploaded.
 Please take note of the formatting guidelines and use the <u>Direct Access</u> template
- The **Final** step, confirms you agree to Terms of Access. Read these, tick the box to accept, click

SAVE AND CONTINUE



At anytime in the submission process, you can view your new proposal from the Dashboard.

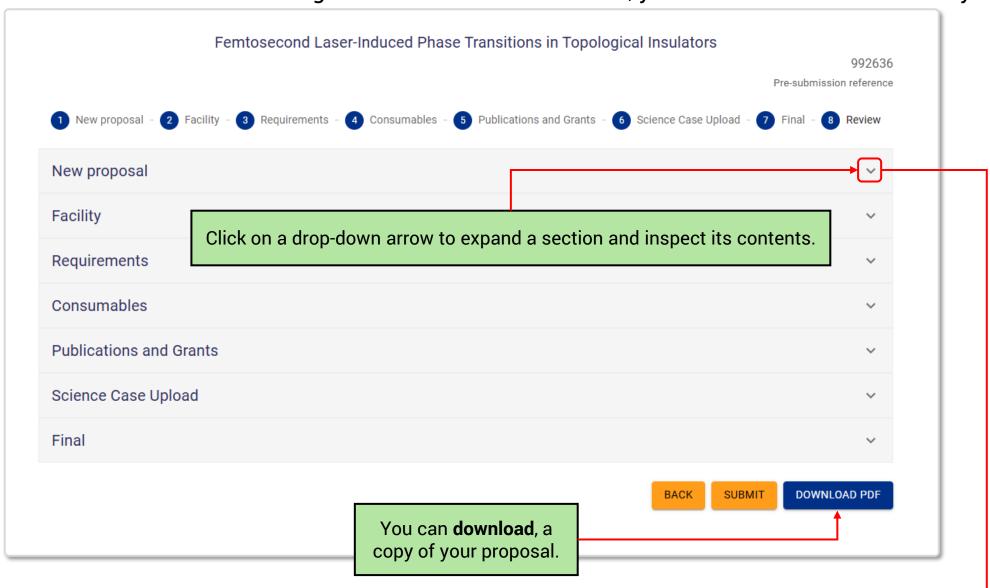
Until it's submitted its Status will be **Draft**.

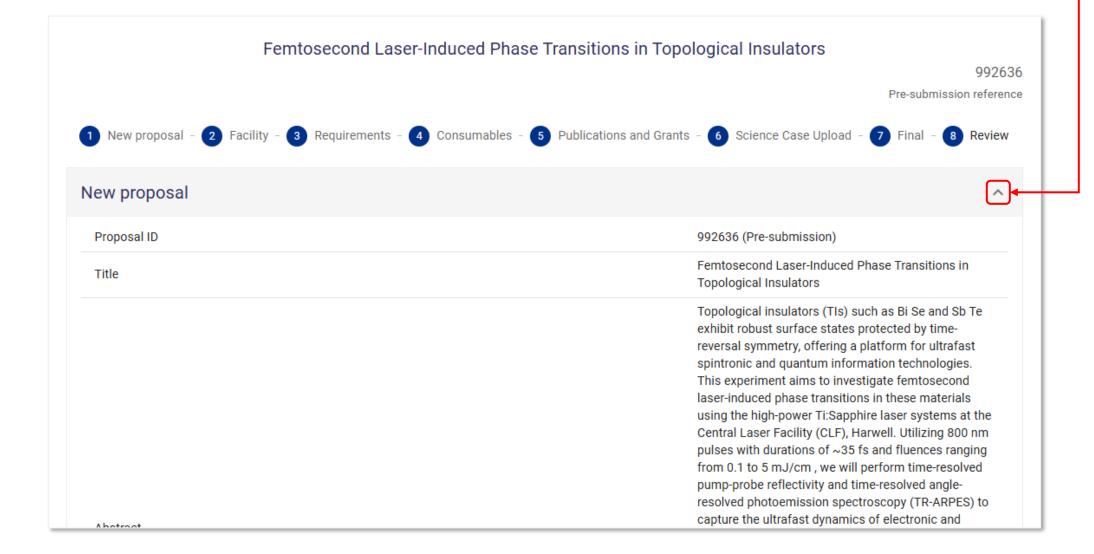


Reviewing your proposal

Once you've added all the information and agreed to the Terms of Access, you can Review the details of your

proposal.





If you spot any errors, navigate back to the relevant section, make the changes, then

SAVE AND CONTINUE

Once the proposal is correct and complete, you're ready to submit your proposal.

Submitting your proposal

Submitting a proposal designates that it's the final version of the document and is ready for review by the relevant Facilities Access Panel, (FAP).

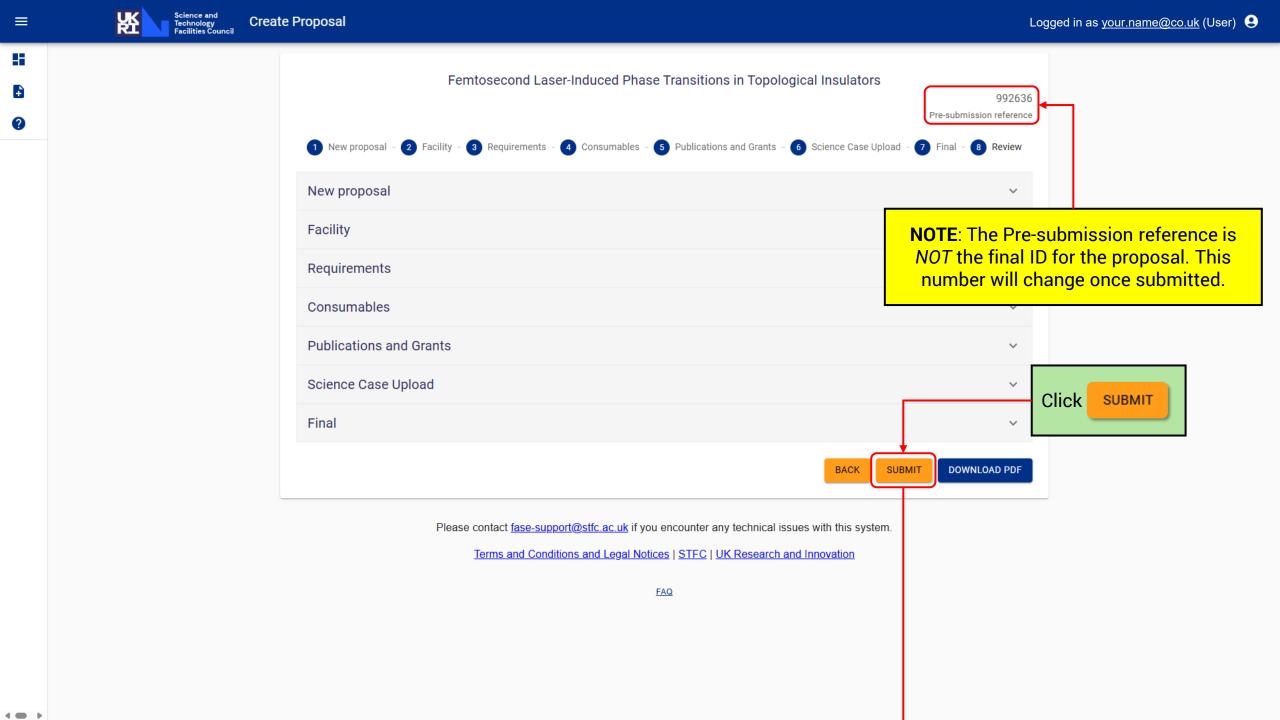
When a proposal is submitted, it's visible to:

- Principal Investigator default, 'the person who created the proposal'
- **Co-Investigators** added by the PI, (providing their <u>settings</u> allow)
- Experiment Scientists scientific staff and some administrative staff at STFC
- User Officers STFC admin staff supporting the proposal submission process
- FAP Members responsible for reviewing proposals

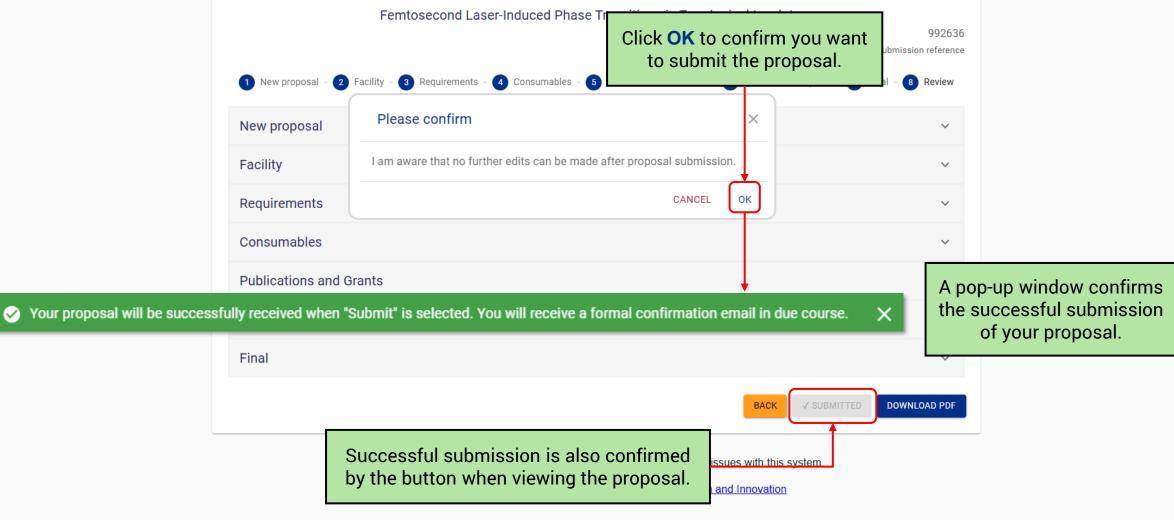
The proposal then moves to the next stage in its workflow (which varies for different calls).

NOTE:

- Draft proposals are also visible to the same groups
- Once submitted, a proposal cannot be edited
- Once submitted, a proposal can be deleted
- NOTE: If you accidentally delete your proposal, you need to contact <u>FASE-support@stfc.ac.uk</u> to get it reinstated back into the Proposal System

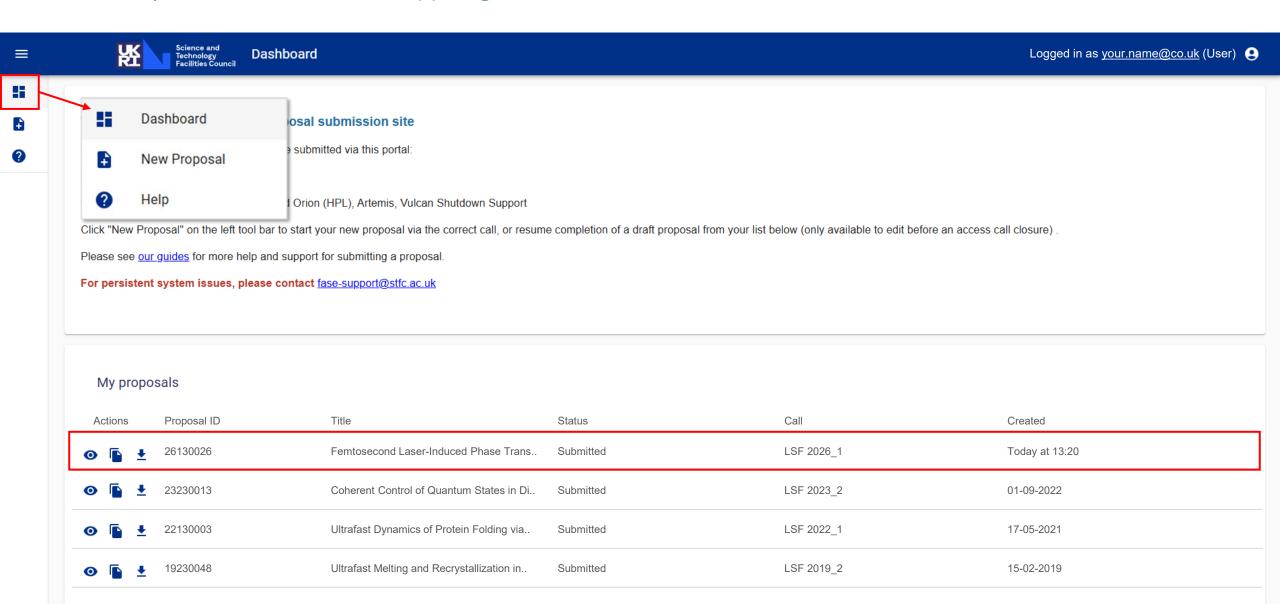






If you see an error or don't see the confirmation pop-up, check the proposal was successfully submitted by verifying its Status. If Status is still Draft, try again later or logout then login and try submitting again.

If the issue persists, contact fase-support@stfc.ac.uk



Editing submitted proposals

Proposals can be edited at any point up until the call deadline (APART FROM XPRESS)

They can also be edited and submitted by anyone assigned to the proposal (principal investigators and co-investigators).

NOTE: multiple people may have access to the same proposal, so any edits should be discussed with everyone assigned to the proposal.

Email Notifications

When a proposal is submitted, an email is sent to everyone assigned to the proposal to notify them of the submission.

The system does not generate email notifications if and when, people edit submitted proposals. Once a proposal has been submitted, and it is subsequently edited, this does not generate email notifications for co-proposers.

Managing your proposals



Dashboard

Logged in as <u>your.name@co.uk</u> (User) 🝳











Proposals for the following access calls are submitted via this portal:

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Click "New Proposal" on the left tool bar to start your new proposal via the correct call, or resume completion of a draft proposal from your list below (only available to edit before an access call closure).

Please see our guides for more help and support for submitting a proposal.

For persistent system issues, please contact fase-support@stfc.ac.uk

From the Proposal Dashboard, you can View, Edit, Clone and Download your proposals.

Note: The ability to do any of the above will depend on the proposal's Status.

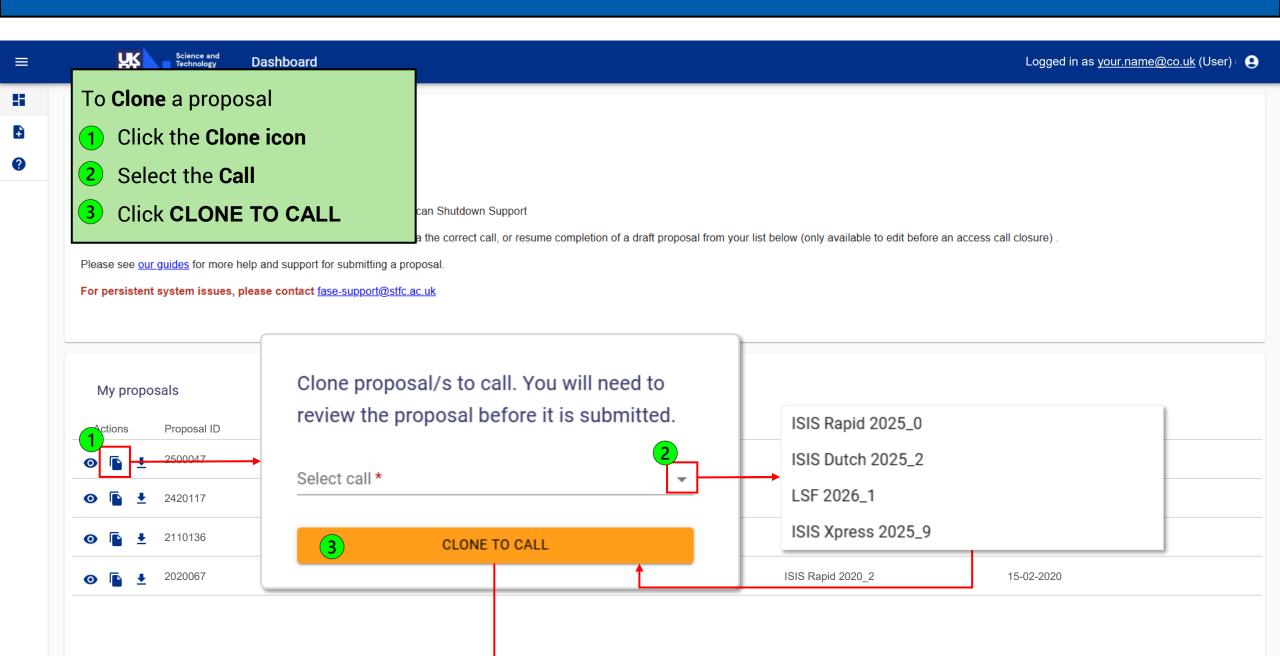
My proposals

Actions	Proposal ID	Title	Status	Call	Created
⊙ ଢ ±	26130026	Femtosecond Laser-Induced Phase Trans	Submitted	LSF 2026_1	Today at 13:20
⊙ ⓑ ±	23230013	Coherent Control of Quantum States in Di	Submitted	LSF 2023_2	01-09-2022
⊙ ⓑ ±	22130003	Ultrafast Dynamics of Protein Folding via	Submitted	LSF 2022_1	17-05-2021
⊙ ଢ ±	19230048	Ultrafast Melting and Recrystallization in	Submitted	LSF 2019_2	15-02-2019

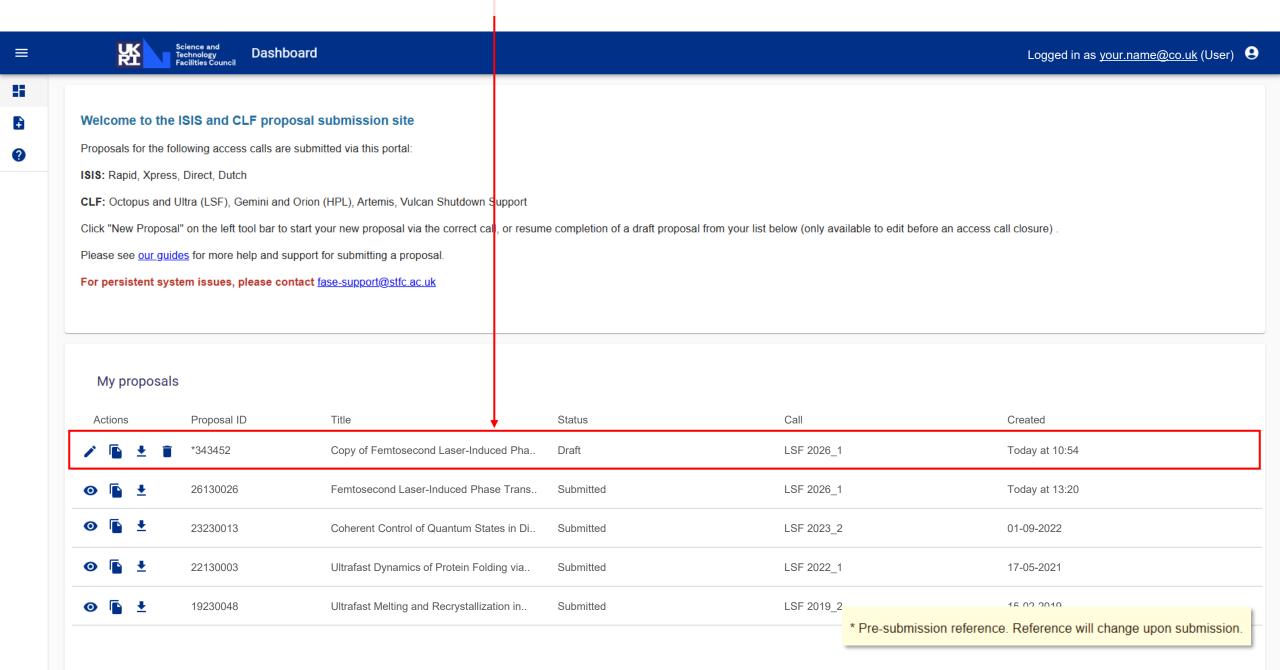
Action Icons

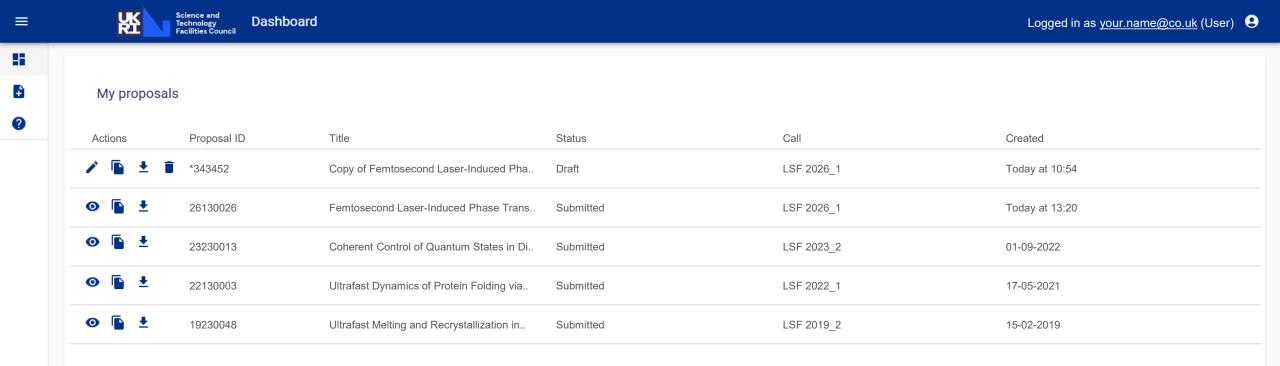
Edit	View	Download	Clone	Delete
View and edit the proposal	View the proposal	Download a .pdf copy of the proposal details	Create a copy of the proposal	Delete the proposal
You can edit a submitted proposal <i>before</i> the call deadline.	The option to edit may be available from here, depending on the proposal Status	Defaults to your PC Downloads, unless otherwise specified.	You will be prompted to select the Call to clone the proposal to. Choose the call, click, "CLONE TO CALL" button. The proposal will appear with the assigned Call showing. Note, other calls may have different questions, so check this carefully.	This is only possible for draft proposals. Submitted proposal cannot be deleted.

Cloning a proposal



The cloned proposal is now shown, with Title as "Copy of" and Status as Draft.





To submit your cloned proposal, you'll need to go through the same process as described previously.

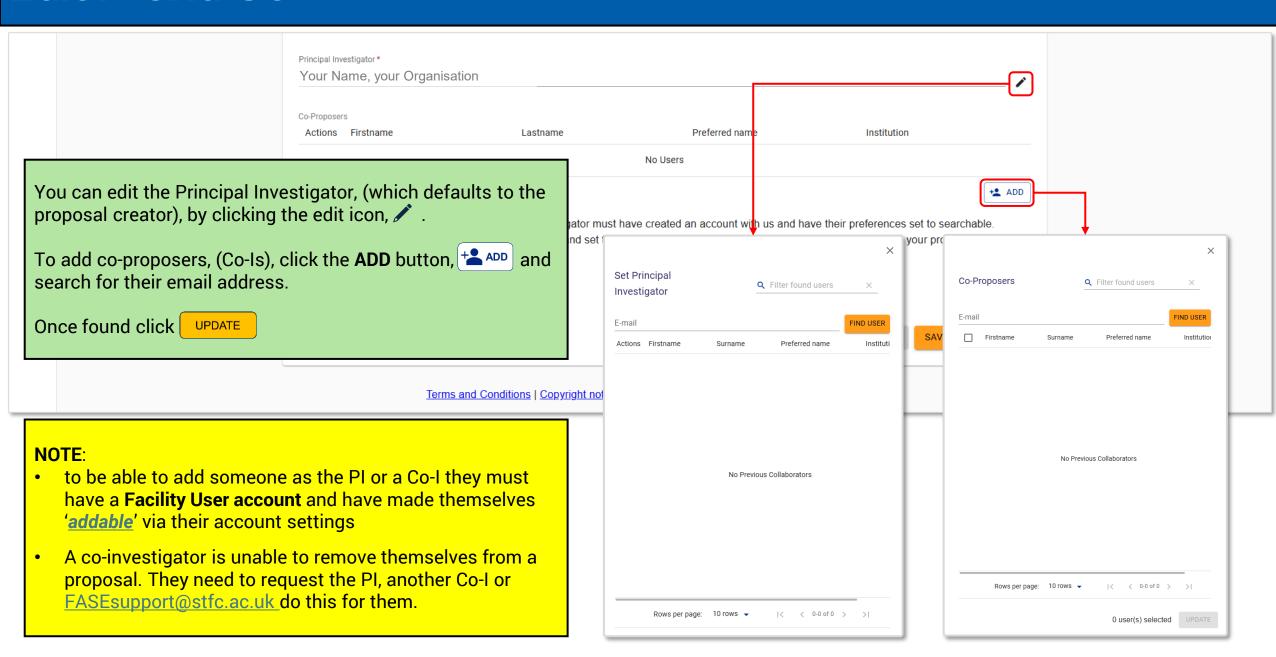


All the details from the original proposal are included in the copy, but you do need to visit every section, (in order), and click **SAVE AND CONTINUE** for each one until you get to the point where you are ready for submission.

NOTE: If the Call you have chosen for the clone proposal differs from the original proposal's Call, then the questions may also differ, and some of the information you supplied may be incorrect or missing.

PLEASE CHECK if this is the case.

Edit Pl and Co-l



Allow users to add me.....

Go to https://users.facilities.rl.ac.uk/ and login with your account.

Click on My Details, or......

Home | My Details | Welcome b: Your Name rds | Logout

Staff Site



Central Laser Facility

To View, Edit and Update the information stored in your Facilities User account you need to go to the **Details section** of the application.

I Appleton Laboratory is one entists from the UK and art technology to carry out a

Select facility:

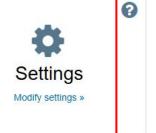
broad range of experiments in physics, chemistry and biology. Our laser facilities range from advanced, compact tuneable lasers which can pinpoint individual particles to high power laser installations that recreate the conditions inside stars.





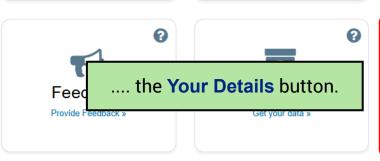


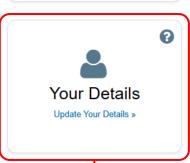






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Scheduler

Schedule Experiment »





Visits

Arrange Your Visit »



Risk Assessments

Submit An ERA »















My Details Manage Account Fed ID

► Summary

- ▶ Details
- ▶ Organisation
- ▶ Facilities
- ▶ RAL Site Access
- ► Emergency Contact
- ► Mailing Lists

The **Details** page allows you to update personal information such as...

- Name
- Status
- Email
- Phone
- Organisation
- Department
- Emergency Contact
- etc...

▼Privacy Settings

In **Privacy Settings** tick **Yes** to allow other users to add you to proposals, visits and FAPs.

know your email address.

Yes - Allow users to add me to proposals, visits and facility access panels

○ No - Don't allow users to add me to proposals, visits and facility access panels

NOTE: You cannot be added to a proposal unless you have made yourself 'addable'.

will need to deactivate your account here.

cess panels. They will only be able to find you if they

On making any amendments to your details, don't forget to click **Save Changes**.

Save Changes

Further Help

There are various routes, depending on what support you require.

Scientific

What is the capability of a specific laser at the facility? What information is required to describe the samples I want to use?

The <u>facility webpages</u> provides an overview of the laser facilities and contains links where you can view more details, including the relevant science staff contacts.

If you can't find an answer there, contact the <u>CLF User Office</u> to be put in touch with someone who can help

Practical

Which call should I submit to? How do I arrange a visit from my university? Please contact the CLF User Office

Software

I'm having trouble logging in to the Proposal System. I've forgotten my password.

Please contact our support team via: fase-support@stfc.ac.uk

The User Office

Both CLF and ISIS have staff to support users from applying to use the facility onwards, located at

Reception Building (R75)
Rutherford Appleton Laboratory
Harwell Campus
Didcot, Oxfordshire
OX11 OQX
UK

CLF User Office

Email: clf@stfc.ac.uk

Tel: +44(0)1235 445090 (ext. 5090)

ISIS Neutron and Muon Source User Office

Email: isisuo@stfc.ac.uk

Tel: +44 1235 445592 (ext 5592)

Glossary

Term	Description
Call	The time window within which proposals are accepted. All proposals submitted to the same call will generally be reviewed at the same time by panel(s). Also called rounds.
CLF	Central Laser Facility, a facility at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Harwell Campus, near Didcot For more information, see www.clf.stfc.ac.uk
Co-I	A shortened form of co-investigator
Co-investigator	This is a person who is added to a proposal but was not the person who created the proposal (the principal investigator). Being added to a proposal means you can edit the proposal and submit it.
Co-proposer	Used interchangeably with co-investigator
Experiment scientist	An STFC staff member, generally scientific staff
ISIS	ISIS Neutron and Muon Source, a facility at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Harwell Campus, near Didcot For more information, see www.isis.stfc.ac.uk
Panel	When a proposal submission deadline is reached, all proposals are reviewed by a group of experts and rated, and then some proposals are successful and can go ahead.
Principle investigator (PI)	The person who creates the proposal becomes the principal investigator by default. They will be the primary contact for the proposal and subsequent experiment (if the proposal is successful).
Proposal	If someone has an idea for an experiment to be carried out at our facilities, they need to answer a series of questions about their idea. The answers to the questions form the proposal.
Round	Used interchangeably with call
User	At both facilities, user generally means someone from outside of STFC coming and making use of the facilities (carrying out an experiment), however within this documentation, user refers to anyone with a Facilities User account (the account required to use the Proposal System)
User office	A group of staff focused on assisting all users of the facilities. Contact details are <u>below</u>
User officer	A permission level within the Proposal System, enabling STFC staff to support the proposal submission process.