

National Imaging Facility (NIF)

As part of the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS), the NIF has established a national network that provides state of the art imaging of animals, plants and materials for the Australian research community.

It provides access to molecular imaging instrumentation, including:

- a range of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and positron emission tomography (PET) scanners
- live animal imaging equipment including bioluminescence, microCT, ultrasound and intravital microscopy.

Key facts

- State: QLD, NSW, SA, VIC, WA
- Lead institute: University of Queensland
- Project status: In progress
- Australian Government contribution:
 - \$7.25 million from the [National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy program](#) to 2011-12 to establish NIF
 - \$40.23 million under the Round 3 of the [Education Investment Fund](#) to expand the network
 - \$4.29 million under the [Collaborative Research Infrastructure Scheme](#)
 - \$1.43 million under the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy 2013
- Key funding partners: host institutions and the governments of Queensland, NSW and SA

Project deliverables

The facility provides users with access to 12 new 'flagship' instruments, improved bio-informatics capability and existing instruments and capabilities across 10 nodes nationwide. The facility will aid medical research and the development of pharmaceuticals.

The new Centre for Advanced Imaging (CAI) building in the University of Queensland (on the St Lucia campus) is being constructed as part of the project.

Access

NIF nodes across Australia are accessible to all researchers at a low cost and on the basis of merit. Reasonable commercial rates are charged to industry users, of which there are a significant and growing number. Researchers wishing to access the NIF can find out how on the [NIF website](#).

Participating organisations

- University of Queensland (lead agency)
- University of Sydney
- University of New South Wales
- University of Western Sydney
- Large Animal Research & Imaging Facility, SA

- University of Melbourne
- Florey Neuroscience Institutes
- Monash University
- University of Western Australia
- Swinburne University of Technology

Related links

The NIF is one of four characterisation facilities funded by the Australian Government under NCRIS. The other three facilities are:

- [National Deuteration Facility](#)
- [The Australian Synchrotron](#)
- [Australian Microscopy and Microanalysis Research Facility](#)

All four characterisation facilities are brought together through the National Characterisation Council.