

**LA-ICP-MS laboratory access and fees  
for external users  
Institute of Geological Sciences,  
University of Bern**



We distinguish

(a) collaborative analyses for external researchers and

(b) analyses for commercial entities

Priority is given to (a)

**(a) External scientific collaboration:**

- Academic institutions are given priority

(other institutions are considered case by case)

- **We request a written proposal, detailing the problem, what data are already available, and what the LA-ICP-MS measurements are expected to contribute**

- Each project proposal will be evaluated on its own merit and on current lab capacity.

- Samples must be prepared measurement-ready for analysis

(according to our instructions - please ask for advise on this).

- Measurement data are to be reduced at our institute in Bern using in-house software (non-transferable). We strongly encourage the external researcher to perform this task. If one of our Institute members carries out the data reduction, an additional CHF 300 (per measurement day, including all taxes and fees) can be charged for this service.

- The local researcher performing the LA-ICP-MS measurements and assisting in data reduction, evaluation, and interpretation must be offered co-authorship on publications using the data produced (specifics to be defined before measurements take place).

- The external scientist contributes CHF 900 per measurement day towards laboratory consumables, including all taxes and fees.

**(b) Commercial contracts:**

- Final analyses and supporting documentation are sold to commercial clients

- Our laboratory is responsible for analytical quality.

- CHF 80 (excluding 8.0% tax) is charged per analytical laser-spot for up to 50 elements; these include 4 to 6 bracketing instrumental calibration spots on standards.

- Contracts consist of a minimum of 30 laser shots per analytical day; hence, the minimum daily net fee is CHF 2400 (even if less spots are performed).

- We request a written proposal, detailing the problem, what data are already available and what the LA-ICP-MS analyses are expected to contribute.

- Each project proposal will be evaluated on its own merit and current lab capacity.

- Samples must be prepared measurement-ready, according to our instructions; extra sample preparation work will be charged separately.

- Final results will be provided to the client within 15 working days after measurement. "Express" requests are available pending on current capacity and will be charged an extra CHF 40 per measurement spot.

- Salary costs for extra work will be charged at CHF 100/hour (excluding 8.0% tax).

After completion of the project, all remaining sample material will be sent back upon request. We do not store any sample materials beyond this stage - non-claimed samples will be discarded.

For additional information regarding LA-ICP-MS analytical work,  
please contact Prof. Thomas Pettke: [thomas.pettke@unibe.ch](mailto:thomas.pettke@unibe.ch)

For additional information regarding LA-ICP-MS dating, notably availability of matrix-matched standard materials, please contact Prof. Daniela Rubatto: [daniela.rubatto@unibe.ch](mailto:daniela.rubatto@unibe.ch)