



## Costs for MRI scanning at the BBL

Hourly fees for researchers using the Trio scanner in the BBL are implemented with the aim to **support the overall functioning** of the MRI platform. These charges are used to cover the following items:

- running everyday costs of the platform (consumables, small equipments, data archiving and disk space, etc.);
- technical support by BBL staff (in particular salary of a radiology technician);
- insurance policy against damage or theft;
- acquisition of new devices of interest to several researchers;
- maintenance of the MRI scanner by Siemens.

The allocation of resources to these different items is overseen by the BBL steering committee as a function of the overall budget available and priorities for users. This allocation takes into consideration other resources invested in the BBL through other funding sources such as the annual budget provided by the UNIGE and participating faculties (MED, FAPSE), as well as the contributions from the NCCR Affective Sciences directly or indirectly via UNIGE. Whenever possible, the scheme applied for hourly fees in the BBL is coordinated with and similar to the scheme used in the CIBM and in the Campus Biotech. The charges are paid on a dedicated account of the university that is overseen by the BBL steering committee. Information about the billing procedure is provided and updated on the BBL website (<http://bbl.unige.ch>).

The scanner charges for MRI studies are dependent on the affiliation of the group and on the time of scanning as detailed below. Hourly fees have been introduced starting on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 and were revised on November 1<sup>st</sup> 2016.

### ***Prime time/Off-hours***

- **Prime time:** from 9a.m. to 6p.m. during working days (from Monday to Friday).
- **Off-hours:** Week-end (Saturday and Sunday), public holidays of Geneva, and before 9a.m. or after 6p.m. during working days.

***For academic centers who are part of the BBL founding institutions (UNIGE and partner institutions such as UNIL and EPFL):***

- An hourly charge of CHF 250.- applies during prime time.
- An hourly charge of CHF 125.- applies during off-hours and weekends.

***For academic centers outside UNIGE and partner institutions:***

- For an independent study (outside of a scientific collaboration with BBL core members), an hourly charge of CHF 500.- applies at all times.
- For a study involving a scientific collaboration with BBL core members, an hourly charge of CHF 250.- applies at all times.

***For core members of the BBL who contribute to its development through regular investments and/or who are PIs in the Center for Affective Sciences (CISA) at UNIGE:***

- An hourly charge of CHF 75.- applies at all times for LABNIC members.
- An hourly charge of CHF 100.- applies at all times for other members of the CISA.

***For industrial partners who are the promoters of a study:***

- An hourly charge will be negotiated dependent on the level of support required, plus 30% institutional overhead, with a minimum hourly charge of CHF 500.- applied at all times.

***Special dispositions:***

- For academic centers who are part of the BBL founding institutions, no charges are billed for pilot studies aimed at generating preliminary data for grant applications, or pilot acquisition aimed at finalizing the experimental design of a study, with a maximum of 4 free hours allocated per study. Beyond this time limit, normal charges are applied according to the above.
- In some cases where the duration of a study may not be fixed from the outset, bulk charges can be negotiated with the steering committee of the BBL for a fixed period
- Maintenance hours of the MR equipment and methodological development of MR techniques conducted in agreement with the head of MR physics staff are not charged.
- Cancellations will be charged to half when they are notified less than 48 hours before the booked slot and cannot be re-allocated to another user.
- Should scanning not be possible due to unforeseen reasons, such as equipment failure, this has to be entered in the log book next to the scanner and notified to the MRI radiology technician so that no billing will occur.

**Note:** Scanner time allocation can be requested only for studies that have already been submitted to and accepted by the BBL steering committee, and whose protocol has been validated by the ethics committee of the institution of the corresponding researchers.

**Training:**

- **MRI Safety Briefing (~1 hour)** is mandatory for all the collaborators who need to have access to the MRI control room. At the end of the Safety Briefing, an attestation will be delivered by the MRI Safety Officer and the access to the MRI Lab will be authorised. The MRI Safety Briefing is charged **CHF 250.- per person**.
- **MRI Operator Training (~20 hours)**. This training gives a good knowledge of MRI Safety, MRI hardware and instrumentation. It allows the experimenter to scan without the help of the MRI radiographer and give access to the slots during off-hours. At the end of the MRI Operator Training, a Certificate will be delivered to the candidate. MRI Operator Training is charged **CHF 2000.- per person**.

**Billing procedure:** Invoices are sent to researchers after the end of a given study or twice annually depending on the calendar of particular studies (e.g. when longer than a semester). Should payment for a prior invoice be outstanding, the BBL may revoke the permission for scheduling additional scanner slots. The charges are based on the number of entries registered in the on-line calendar system for the MRI lab.