STFC IRIS
Science Director:
Jon Hays
Technical Director:
Andrew Samsun

Notice of Allocation

The Resource Scrutiny and Allocation Panel

Chair: Daniela Bauer

Notice of Allocation of IRIS Resources for 2023/2024: GAIA

Thank you for submitting an IRIS resource request for 2023/2024. The RSAP met on 15th March 2023 to consider all requests. The outcome of your request is summarized in the table below.

Project: GAIA	CPU (cores)	GPU cards	Disk	Tape
Requested	7194 (See table at end of document.)	N/A	Core: 4272 TB Data Mining: 196TB (4 storage areas)	600 TB (retain allocation)
Recommendation	7194 (But please note activity specific guidance.)	N/A	Core: 4272 TB DM: 196TB (4 storage areas)	600 TB
Notes				

Table 1: Overview

General guidance:

IRIS tries to fulfil all recommendations, however due to budget limitations might not be able to. In this case you will be contacted by the Science Director to discuss further strategy.

All projects in receipt of an IRIS allocation are responsible for monitoring their usage. Effective use of allocated resources can be used by the panel when making decisions about future allocations. If you have problems accessing or making effective use of the resources, you are strongly advised to contact the technical working group (IRIS-TWG@jiscmail.ac.uk) and/or your IRIS-DB representative.

In a small number of cases a provisional allocation partially meeting the request has been made. This follows RSAP policy to make partial allocations for new activities or where activities have either not been able to make full use of previous allocations or where the Panel was not confident that the provided computing model justified the projected required resources. Please see the activity specific guidance section for further details.

The full allocation (indicated in brackets) will be available once effective use of the provisional allocation is demonstrated and/or the issues indicated in activity specific guidance have been addressed.

Activity specific guidance:

On usage:

Please make full use of the IRIS accounting in your next request. Failure to do so will come back to haunt you. The panel recommends including regular monitoring of the accounting numbers, so problems can be flagged early (by raising an issue with the IRIS TWG).

Reviewer's (and chair's) comments:

There was some discussion centring around the statement:

"Due to current high workload on the Gaia team we have not yet deployed the processing infrastructure. This is planned by the end of this year [2022]"

(This version of the request was submitted at the beginning of January 2023.)

Based on the information provided one reviewer (plus the chair) were not convinced that the problems would be resolved in time for the requested resources to come online as no indication of a change in priorities was given (i.e. why would 2023 be different?)

The reviewer hence recommended an initially smaller application for core-processing until usage is shown as is IRIS policy.

The submitters (represented by Nic Walton) clarified during the panel meeting, that team is now in place to use CPU. The Science Director (Jon Hays) clarified that if usage is shown, IRIS will do everything to provide the requested resources. **But he also stressed the need for accurate predictions. Underusage weakens IRIS case in regard to seeking funding.**

In future requests, please ensure to include sufficient details for the reviewers to understand where problems come from, how you intend to resolve them and the expected timeline. Difficulty in accessing and/or using of IRIS resources does not preclude future allocation as long as the requestors can provide a plan for resolving the issues.

CPU Allocation	Current (cores)	New (cores)	Total (cores)
GAIA Data Mining	770	-	770
GAIA Core	1200	5224	6424
Total	1970	5224	7194

Table 2: GAIA CPU request detail