

How to get Beam Time at SSRL BL4-2

To get experimental beam time at BL4-2 you have to write a proposal, briefly explaining your scientific question and the planned experiment. These proposals will then be rated by experts in the field according to their scientific merit. Depending on that rating and overall beam time demand we will schedule your beamtime.

There are two types of proposals: standard and rapid access.

Standard proposals have deadlines for submission three times per year (5/1, 8/1 and 11/1). They are typically 3-5 pages long and, if accepted, you will be eligible for requesting beam time three times a year for a period of two years.

Rapid access proposals can be submitted anytime and are designed for small projects that need up to a day of beamtime (3 shifts).

Additional information on the proposal process can be found here: <https://www-ssrl.slac.stanford.edu/content/user-resources/proposal-submittal-and-scheduling-procedures-research>

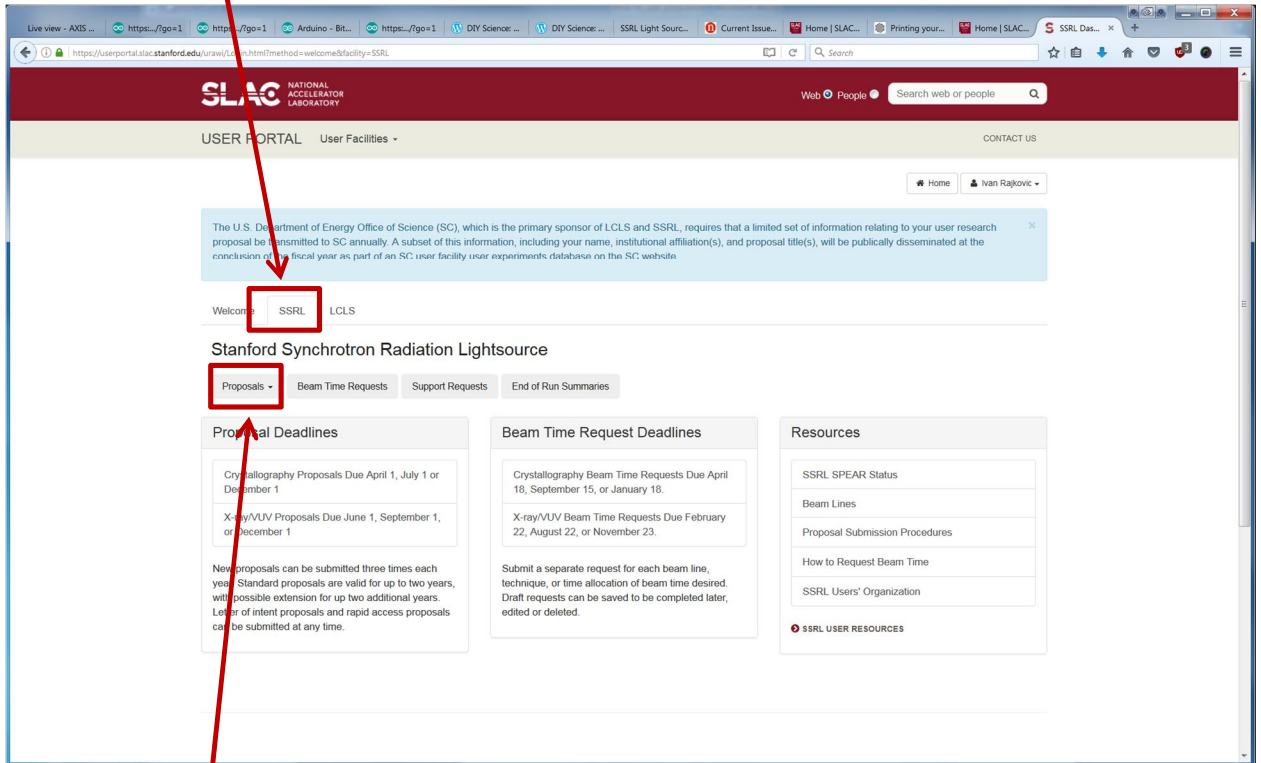
Here are the steps for submitting a new proposal:

- 1) Go to the SLAC 'User portal' web-page:
<https://userportal.slac.stanford.edu/>

If you don't have an account create one by clicking on the 'Register' button. If you already have an account you can log in by clicking on the 'Log in' button.

The screenshot shows the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory User Portal. The page has a dark red header with the SLAC logo and navigation links. Below the header is a large banner image showing scientists in a laboratory setting, with the text "World Class Facilities" and a description of the Matter in Extreme Conditions instrument. At the bottom of the page, there are two main sections: "Registered users" and "Become a new user". The "Registered users" section contains a "Log in" button, and the "Become a new user" section contains a "Register" button. Red arrows point from the text above to these two buttons.

2) Click on the 'SSRL' tab on the 'Welcome' page.



3) From the 'Proposals' drop down menu select 'Submit SSRL XRAY or VUV Proposal'.

- 4) On the following page you can select the proposal type:
- X-ray/VUV Standard Proposal
 - Rapid Access Biological Small Angle Scattering (SAXS)

Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Lightsource

Proposals - Beam Time Requests Support Requests End of Run Summaries

SSRL X-ray or VUV Proposals

- **Step 1:** Enter proposal information below. Provide a brief title that you would be willing to share publicly on the website if awarded beam time. All required fields marked with (*) must be completed, and the proposal description must be uploaded in PDF .pdf format. (See link to Proposal Instructions).
- **Step 2:** 'Save Proposal Information and Proceed with Safety Information'. Disclose all potential safety considerations and upload relevant safety documents on the 'Next Page'. Review safety 'Summary', then 'Save Safety Information and Proceed to Confirmation'.
- **Step 3:** Review and confirm that proposal and safety information are complete; 'Submit' proposal.

SSRL proposals are valid for two (2) years and are eligible for renewal for up to two (2) additional years based on review of progress, publications, continuing scientific priority, and future plans.

Proposals submitted to SSRL are peer reviewed and rated on a scale from 1 (highest) to 5 (lowest). Proposals rated better than 1.4 are most likely to receive their optimal number of shifts on their first choice beam line, other requests are accommodated as beam time is available.

For return users submitting new proposals, keep in mind that attention will be given to proposals that have published results from previous experiments utilizing SSRL's unique facilities and that have appropriately acknowledged SSRL and funding agencies on all related publications.

Peer review is a key element in appropriately allocating resources here at SSRL, and we appreciate users' assistance in providing peer review for proposals in areas related to their expertise.

⊗ = Required input

Proposal Type

Select Proposal Type ⊕

- X-ray/VUV Standard Proposal (due June 1, September 1, December 1, valid for 2 years)
- Rapid Access Biological Small Angle Scattering (SAXS) (can be submitted at any time for BL 4-2, valid for 3 shifts or ~6 months)
- Rapid Access X-ray biological X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy (bio XAS) (can be submitted at any time for BLS 4-3, 7-5, valid for 6 shifts or ~6 months)
- Rapid Access X-ray Diffraction/Scattering (XRD) (can be submitted at any time for BLS 2-1, 7-2, 11-3, valid for 6 shifts or ~6 months)
- Rapid Access X-ray Microprobe/Imaging (can be submitted at any time for BL 2-3, valid for 3-6 shifts or ~6 months)
- Rapid Access X-ray Molecular Environmental Interface Science X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy (MEIS XAS) (can be submitted at any time for BLS 4-1, 11-2, valid for 6 shifts or ~6 months)
- X-ray/VUV Letter of Intent (can be submitted at any time, valid for ~18 shifts or 1 year; not likely to compete for oversubscribed beam lines)

[Continue to Proposal Information](#) [Cancel](#)

Once you click on 'Continue to Proposal Information' you will start the submission process. The process has 3 pages and you can save a draft any time and continue later.

- 5) On the following page (1 of 3) you will enter proposal information and upload the pdf file with your proposal. Please try to provide as many details as you can about the proposed experiment. This is the only page which is different for standard and rapid access proposals.

If you have selected the standard proposal:

Important thing is to select 'Bio' in 'Research Area Review Panel(s)' and '4-2, Bio SAXS' in 'Experimental Stations' section.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a proposal form. The 'Research Area Review Panel(s)' section has a dropdown menu set to 'Bio'. Below it, there are several paragraphs of text describing different review panels. The 'Experimental Stations' section has a dropdown menu set to '4-2, Bio SAXS'. A red arrow points from the text above to the 'Bio' dropdown, and another red arrow points from the text above to the '4-2, Bio SAXS' dropdown.

If you have selected the rapid access proposal:

Important thing is to select '4-2, Bio SAXS' in 'Experimental Stations' section.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a proposal form. The 'Experimental Stations' section has a dropdown menu set to '4-2, Bio SAXS'. A red arrow points from the text above to the '4-2, Bio SAXS' dropdown.

- 6) On the next page (2 of 3) you will enter the necessary safety information. Please provide any additional information about your sample(s) and upload corresponding MSDS file(s) if possible.
- 7) On the last page (3 of 3) you will be able to review your proposal and submit it.