



RAEON Equipment Request and Allocation Criteria

The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) funded RAEON network provides instruments to support research and grant proposals by Canadian academic researchers and their partners in the Great Lakes basin. These equipment loans include a fee to ensure all equipment is serviced and calibrated, so that lost or damaged equipment can be replaced, and general operating costs of the Network can be maintained. There is also an agreement to archive data through RAEON.

The adjudication of instrument loan decisions is managed by the RAEON Science Advisory Committee (SAC) using the eligibility criteria, ranking criteria for over-subscribed instruments, and timelines listed below. The criteria establishes if the request meets the necessary benchmarks established by the SAC under the provisions of the funding body (Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI)) and will be used to make decisions if any instrument is oversubscribed (i.e., insufficient instruments). Instruments can be requested for up to 4 years but must have approved funding for the length of request and deployment. Requests can be renewed beyond original requests based on these criteria.

Eligibility criteria for RAEON instrument loans based on CFI rules:

- 1) Request includes a Canadian academic researcher (university or college) for research activities.
- 2) Funding is available or proposed to support the deployment and retrieval of the equipment. Preference will be given by projects supported by Canadian Tri-Council funding (NSERC, SHHRC and CHIR).
- 3) Proposed research will support the training of highly qualified personnel (HQP – undergraduate and graduate students, PDFs). Preference will be given to projects that support more HQP.

Criteria for ranking of requests for oversubscribed instruments:

- 1) Proposed research fits into the three main themes of the RAEON proposal: i) biogeochemistry and water; ii) spatial and community ecology; and iii) biodiversity and conservation (*see* RAEON.org).
- 2) Number of HQP supported.
- 3) Applicant is a member of an equity-seeking group, as established by the Government of Canada and the University of Windsor.
- 4) Leveraging of other instruments and networks.

Equipment request and decision timelines and protocol

RAEON SAC will adjudicate instrument requests two times per year, deadline for applications will be April 1 and November 1. Decisions will be made within two weeks of this deadline. Requests between these dates will be considered if the instruments are available and



meet the criteria but will only be available until the next request deadline (e.g., request in July must be returned by November 1).

To request equipment, researchers would fill out and submit the RAEON equipment loan form directly through the website through the 'request' button.

Loan Agreement

If an equipment loan is approved, both parties (RAEON and the researcher) will sign a formal loan agreement outlining the terms of the agreement.