**Guidance for applicants:**

**When preparing your application please feel free to contact us to discuss your proposal. We will then be able to advise on how much microscopy time you may require and any technical aspects of the application which need to be addressed.**

**When you have completed the form please email it to** **contrast@exeter.ac.uk** **before 12:00am on the closing day of the call.**

**The applications will be assessed against the criteria outlined below. The applications will be ranked by the review panel and the highest ranked applications will be allocated time. After the review process you will be informed whether your application has been successful. We will provide feedback for unsuccessful applications, and welcome resubmissions in subsequent calls.** If the application is a resubmission of a previously unsuccessful application, write in no more than 150 words how the reviewers' comments have been addressed.

**APPLICATION ASSESSMENT CRITERIA for Direct Access**

Direct Access applications are assessed within the following criteria

**Category 1. Absolute pre-requisite, without which an application will not be recommended for funding.**

* Scientific excellence: specific objectives of the project
* Appropriateness of CRS techniques for specified objectives
* International competitiveness

**Category 2. Supporting evidence** which increases the confidence in a successful outcome.

* Productivity of the Investigator/s
* Potential to lead to funded programme access.
* Quality of leadership/management
* Alignment with CONTRAST objectives
	1. Development of CRS based health care technologies
	2. The application of novel CRS techniques to aid the development of new technologies and therapies.

**Category 3. Important additional criteria:** RCUK funded research, strategic alignment, opportunities and plans which must be addressed in the application.

* Potential for societal/economic impact
* Alignment with EPSRC and other RCUK priority areas