

RAQ plan to share material and human resources

November 17, 2020

RAQ helps maintain highly specialized resources through an annual grant supporting the operation of major infrastructures made available to its members. These infrastructures include UQAR's aquaculture station, Université Laval's Aquatic Laboratory for Research in Environmental and Medical Sciences (LARSEM), Institute of integrative biology and systems (IBIS) bioinformatics support, and UQAC's research vessel, the *Borealis*.

RAQ makes every effort to ensure that its equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) policy is applied when providing access to these four shared resources. This document details the sharing plan put in place by RAQ to ensure an equitable distribution of materials and human resources.

1. Pointe-au-Père Aquaculture Station (UQAR)

The aquaculture station has all the necessary infrastructure to undertake aquaculture work and to produce various life stages of the invertebrates and fish under study.

The station offers various services, such as supplying seawater, fresh water, and compressed air for the maintenance of marine and freshwater organisms; an instrumentation laboratory comprising basic equipment (e.g., microscope, liquid nitrogen generator, particle counter, scales); a radioecology laboratory; experimental rooms; two tank rooms; a greenhouse with natural light; temperature-controlled rooms; and related services (e.g., warehouse, workshop, meeting room).

Admissibility criteria. To be eligible, projects must fit within RAQ's research interests, must last at least one month, and must require only technical time strictly devoted to the aquaculture station.

Scheduling. In May of each year, the technician's time is allocated according to the needs of the researchers who use the aquaculture station. A request must be made directly to RAQ's board of directors.

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2. Aquatic Research Laboratory in Environmental and Medical Sciences (LARSEM - U. Laval)

LARSEM is a state-of-the-art interdisciplinary research centre specializing in the study of aquatic organisms in the fields of aquaculture, genomics, environmental health, protection of Arctic marine environments, and biomedical research. It includes the following:

- A room holding large experimental tanks and a room for the manufacture of new feeds for farmed fish;
- An AQC2 (Aquatic Containment Level 2) room, which is required according to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) 2012 standards. This is the only aquatic containment room of this level at a Canadian university;
- A unit with experimental devices adapted for the breeding and maintenance of model fish as well as behavioural work;
- A thermoregulated environmental room for work on microalgae/cyanobacteria.

Admissibility criteria. To be eligible, projects must fit within RAQ's research interests, must last at least one month, and require only technical time.

Scheduling. Grant allocation is managed by LARSEM's director, is made over 12 months, and is then distributed according to the projects active within the month. A new policy has been in effect since April 1, 2020:

- Only projects with a minimum of two RAQ members will be eligible for their full share of the grant while individual projects will have an allocation of 50%.
- A project will be defined according to the number of SIRUL; two CPAUL applications with the same number of SIRUL will count as a single project.
- There is no maximum number of projects a researcher can do in a year.
- There will be a maximum of \$400 per month per team project. Funds not used in a month may be transferred to the following months.
- Funds not used at the end of the fiscal year will be returned to LARSEM and used for salaries.

		2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Internal	Week	\$34.40	\$35.40	\$36.50	\$37.60
	Weekend	\$46.10	\$47.48	\$48.97	\$50.20
External	Week	\$79.46	\$81.77	\$84.32	\$86.86
	Weekend	\$106.49	\$109.68	\$113.12	\$115.96

¹ 15-minute increments

² Rate changes on April 1 of each year

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3. Bioinformatics support (IBIS)

Bioinformatics support is available to all RAQ members from Eric Normandeau. RAQ covers 50% of Mr. Normandeau's salary, so the time allocated in the year to the activities of RAQ members is equivalent. You should contact Mr Normandeau to determine his availability. Mr Normandeau offers personalized technical support service as well as online training on specific topics. These courses are available on our website (www.raq-uqar.ca), and Mr Normandeau can be reached by email at eric.normandeau@bio.ulaval.ca.

4. *Boréal*is (UQAC)

The *Boréal*is is a research vessel dedicated to work on the fisheries resources of large bodies of freshwater such as the St. Lawrence River and lac Saint-Jean as well as coastal environments such as the Saguenay Fjord and the St. Lawrence Estuary. Built of aluminum and 8 m long, it is equipped with two diesel engines and a hydraulic winch to handle scientific equipment.

Admissibility criteria. To be eligible, projects must fit within RAQ's research interests.

Scheduling. In April of each year, use of the research vessel is scheduled according to the needs of researchers and partners. The vessel schedule is managed by Professor Pascal Sirois, and requests must be made directly to pascal_sirois@uqac.ca. The person operating the *Boréal*is must hold valid permits, and travel and operating expenses are the users' responsibility.

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