

Histology unit Aperio Versa 8 Digital Scanner Tier fee from 1st January 2025

We are introducing a tiered fee structure that offers a reduced hourly rate for use of the Versa digital scanner for high users. Principal Investigators can choose whether to be charged at the casual hourly rate or select a pre-paid tiered fee. Health Science Division (HSD) rates only apply to Dunedin HSD departments.

How the tiered fee structure works

- PIs select a tier based on their expected hourly use of the scanner
- PIs complete the “Histology tier user application form.pdf” available from the OMNI Histology website and submit this to the omni.accounts@otago.ac.nz email address
- The account number(s) provided will be billed the tiered fee amount up front
- This can be used for the PI’s entire lab group i.e. include several students/post-docs
- Equipment usage (hours) will be recorded from the instrument booking system
- PIs will receive a monthly statement and be notified when maximum hours for the tier have been used up
- If more hours are needed PIs may choose to EITHER upgrade their tier by paying the difference between the previous and new tier cost OR continue to be charged at the casual hourly rate
- Applies to a single calendar year but can start at any time of year (i.e. ends 31st December and does not carry over to the next year)
- **No refunds/carry forwards** unless equipment unavailable/broken for a significant period (see below)

Tiered fee Versa scanner rates for 2025

Tier	Hours	HSD - Dunedin		Non-HSD	
		Cost	Min hourly rate	Cost	Min hourly rate
Casual	1	\$30		\$120	
Tier 1	Up to 100	\$2,000	\$20	\$8,000	\$80
Tier 2	100 to 399	\$4,000	\$10	\$16,000	\$40
Tier 3	400 to 1000	\$6,000	\$6	\$24,000	\$24

Scanning time depends on the number of fluorescent colours, intensity of staining, section size and magnification (20x or 40x). The best way to estimate the hours you will require is to run a test scan of one of your slides. Please contact Rob Porteous to arrange this.

Refunds/Carry Forwards

If the Tier Fee has not been used within a calendar year due to exceptional circumstances beyond the user’s control (for example an instrument is broken), you may apply for your Tier Fee to be carried forward to the following year. Please email your justification to omni.accounts@otago.ac.nz and your request will be considered by the Operations Manager and Financial Advisor. Refunds are unlikely to be approved, especially if the grant account has been closed, due to accounting law.