



ExFAB User Projects – Overview

ExFAB Project Levels

ExFAB offers three project levels – (1) Exploratory, (2) Developmental, and (3) Full – to best suit your research needs. You can submit a proposal for any level, and we're here to help you determine the best fit.

Exploratory Projects: These are perfect if you're just starting out or unsure which project level is right for you. An Exploratory project helps you define the scope and boundaries of a research path: as an opportunity to test and refine methods, these projects will establish strong foundations for future work.

Developmental Projects: These projects have more precisely defined research goals and often build upon the insights gained from an Exploratory project. They typically employ small scale automation using established methods.

Full Projects: These are our most comprehensive projects, designed for well-established research plans. They are best for high throughput automation, and/or combining previously validated protocols into a multi-step workflow.

Choosing the Right Project Level

You can always start with an Exploratory project and upgrade as your project evolves. Even if you anticipate needing a Developmental or Full Project, an initial Exploratory Project can be invaluable for scoping and planning. Follow-on proposals for Exploration projects are streamlined via an abbreviated, supplemental application, making it easy to continue your research journey.

If your approved Developmental or Full project requires significant method development at ExFAB, we'll collaborate with you to design an Exploratory project specifically to establish the necessary methodology.

For a more detailed understanding of each project level, please consult the table below. If you have any questions about categorizing your project, don't hesitate to contact our User Coordinator, Dr. Jessica Sexton.



Project Comparison Table

Project Level	Description	Proposal Length	Estimated Budget*	Estimated Equipment & Staff Time	Expected Duration	Notes
Exploratory	Method development	1-2 pages	As needed, typically < \$1000	As needed, typically < 5 hours	Variable, typically 2-8 weeks	Typically 1-3 samples
Developmental	Small scale automation	2-4 pages	\$5000	10-100 hours	1-3 months	Typically < 300 samples
Full	High throughput automation	3-6 pages	\$7500-\$25,000	> 100 hours	3-9 months	*Suggest initial consultation with User Coordinator

* Please note the above budget information is provided solely for scoping purposes and represents the anticipated budget for each project level. The budget for individual projects will vary. User projects are fully supported for their approved budget.