

# Access to LOFAR

How to get access to LOFAR facilities and become a participant in the project

## How to become a participant in the project

- If you are part of one of the Astronomical Key Science Projects, please use your designated contact person.
- If you are part of one of the International partners of LOFAR, please contact your designated contact person.
- If you are not part of any of the above please see the information on this page:  
<http://www.lofar.org/contact-lofar>

## Long Term Archive

You will need Science Support to grant you access, unless you are already a member in MoM of the project you are trying to access data for. Once you have access and updated your password you should use the [Long Term Archive manual](#).

The [Lofar Software Stack installation](#) page shows which software is installed on the LTA processing locations. You can also use this information as a manual on how to install Lofar software yourself.

## How to get access to the LOFAR systems

**[Before you access any Lofar system, please take notice of our General User Access Policy \(GUAP\)](#)**

### Central Processing Systems

Once you are a participant of the project and you need access to the CEP systems as a programmer or scientist, you will need this information:

- Get your contact person (e.g., Michael Wise) to request an account on the systems and specify what permissions you'll need.
- Ensure that you can enter the portal node (`portal.lofar.eu`) with your new account.
- Learn the basics of the [Lofar Login Environment](#) available at Central Processing.
- Learn the overall layout and use of the [central processing \(CEP\) systems](#)
- Learn about the available [packages](#)
- Learn how to use [ssh keys](#), [ssh-agents](#) and [ssh port forwarding](#).
- Learn how to use [the FreeNX client for compressed X11 output](#).
- Choosing [strong passwords](#).

## Some important notes about the CEP1 and CEP2 home directories

Please be aware of the following:

- You share your home directory with ~ 275 neighbors
- The observe system depends upon good availability
- The pipeline runs on CEP2 also depend upon good availability
- Home directories are subject to backup operations, more volume means more vulnerability
- Moving large volumes on home-directories on head nodes can stall all cluster-nodes!
- Keep your volume below 100GB (preferably less)
- Use `rsync -bwlimit=5000` (5 MB/s) when coping data, use single thread only!
- The weekends are used for observing!

## Wiki

You will have to register. See [The LOFAR wiki start page](#).

From:

<https://www.astron.nl/lofarwiki/> - **LOFAR Wiki**

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Last update: **2015-09-09 12:01**

