

Usage Policy

Learning Goals:

- Usage Policies
- Cluster Usage Etiquette
- Common Mistakes to Avoid



CoSTAR Cluster Usage Policy

- The cluster is subject to the University of Surrey's [IT security](#) and [IT acceptable use](#) policies.
- Any **malicious abuse** or **misuse** of the computing facilities may lead to suspension of your access. This includes the detection of any attempt to deliberately circumvent job schedulers to consume more than your entitled share of resources.



CoSTAR Cluster Usage Policy (continued)

- If your jobs are causing significant issues or detrimental impacts to the cluster, they may be stopped by IT services to preserve the cluster. This is not punitive, When the system is in danger of crashing, we may not have time to notify you before acting.
- **Please report any issues you encounter promptly via any of the available support options.**



Cluster Usage Etiquette

Essential rules for fair and responsible cluster use:

- **Test code before scaling up:** Start small to debug and benchmark before submitting large jobs
- **Never manipulate the scheduler:** Do not exploit the scheduler to bypass queue limits or priorities. This will get you banned.
- **Respect shared resources:** Avoid hogging CPUs/GPUs; release nodes when done; clean up temporary files on shared storage areas.



Common Mistakes to Avoid

- **Never run code on the login node directly:** Use the scheduler to submit jobs to compute nodes.
- **Avoid wasteful resource requests:** Know your workload and specify realistic CPU/memory/GPU needs in submission scripts.
- **Use checkpointing during simulations or model training to avoid data loss:** Cluster operations may be disrupted for various reasons, including technical issues or required maintenance.



Common Mistakes to Avoid (continued)

- **Monitor storage limits:** Home directories have 233GB quotas. Use the scratch space for temporary data. Please be aware that no data is backed up!
- **Do not connect VS Code to the cluster's login server:**
Its server processes consume significant resources, potentially overloading the login nodes. VS Code processes get killed every couple of minutes automatically.

The user documentation contains guidance on how to use VS Code, see
The Cluster > Software > VS Code.

