

1) How much sample material should I weigh out?

The amount of material that you need to weigh out depends on the elemental composition of your samples, and therefore varies by user. In general, the instrument does best with 0.015 – 0.50 mg N, and 0.10 – 1.20 mg C (see FAQ #6 also). How much dry total sample this means for you depends on the chemical composition of your sample. [This table](#) provides some guidelines to work from, but note that it is not uncommon to have to weigh in samples more than once in order to get reliable data for everything, especially when samples have variable N or C content, or when N content is very low compared to C. All listed weights are approximations based on the targeted ranges cited above. For oxygen, 0.50 mg of bulk material and cellulose is usually adequate. In all cases, it is usually best to weigh out a small subset of samples (~10 or so for each isotope measurement C+N, and/or O) to analyze first to confirm that your target sample weights are appropriate.