

Application deadline

13 November 2019, 4pm

Summary

The Bioinformatics and Biological Resources (BBR) Fund aims to facilitate the establishment, maintenance and enhancement of high-quality bioinformatics and biological resources to support the UK bioscience research community.

The indicative budget for the call is up to £6M, subject to the quality of applications received. Please note that all applications must have a start date no earlier than 1 July 2020.

Eligibility

This call for proposals is open to all institutions and applicants normally eligible for BBSRC funding. See section 3 of the BBSRC grants guide for further information on institutional and applicant eligibility (<https://bbsrc.ukri.org/documents/grants-guide/>).

Research Technical Professionals

BBSRC recognises the value of technical expertise to the UK research workforce, and supports recognition of their contributions where appropriate. Examples include, but are not limited to, data curators and data stewards. Arrangements for professional development of technical and support staff should be described in the proposal. Please refer to the BBSRC website for further information (<https://bbsrc.ukri.org/skills/developing-careers/research-technicians-technology-skills-specialists/>).

Research Software Engineers

BBSRC notes the significant contribution of staff such as Research Software Engineers (<https://rse.ac.uk/>) and equivalent roles to interdisciplinary computational projects, and supports recognition of their contributions and encourages applicants to name and cost them appropriately on applications.

For any queries about eligibility, please contact eligibility@bbsrc.ukri.org before submitting your application.

How to apply

Applications must be submitted using the [Je-S website](#) by **13 November 2019, 4pm**, selecting the following options:

- Council: BBSRC
- Document Type: Standard Proposal
- Scheme: Bioinformatics and Biological Resources Fund
- Call: 2019 Bioinformatics and Biological Resources Fund
- Create Document

Please note that all applications must have a start date no earlier than 1 July 2020.

To ensure a proposal is submitted on time we suggest that it should be sent to your institution's Je-S submitter pool approximately a week before this deadline. Please note that we are unable to accept late submissions.

General guidance

- Standard guidelines for research grant applications apply, as described in our [grants guide](#).
- Total requested costs should not exceed £2M (100% FEC value). Funding is available for up to 5 years.
- The New Investigator and Industrial Partnership Award schemes do not apply to this call for proposals.
- Requests for studentships should not be included as part of a BBR Fund application.

Required documents

In addition to the completed Je-S application form your submission should include the following attachments:

Attachment	Max. page length (A4)	Guidance
Case for support	8 pages	See below
Justification of Resources	2 pages	All resources requested (directly incurred, directly allocated, staff costs for Research Technical Professionals and Research Software Engineers, PI and Co-I time) must be fully justified. If costs are not sufficiently clear and well justified the panel may cut costs before awarding the grant.
Data Management Plan	1 page	Should provide information relating to data sharing and software management. Please refer to the BBSRC website for our Data Sharing Policy . We recommend consulting the Software Sustainability Institute website for guidance on software management .
Pathways to Impact	2 pages	Must be specific to the project and contain timelines, milestones and deliverables. Applicants are expected to outline the broader benefits of the resource to the public sector, as well as private sector, third sector and wider public where applicable.
Diagrammatic Work Plan	1 page	A diagrammatic Gantt chart outlining the key steps to be taken and milestones to be reached to realise the project outcomes as described in the Case for Support.

Management structure	1 page	Should provide a diagrammatic overview of how the project management and scientific advisory functions will operate. The proposed membership should be listed. Please use attachment type 'other attachment'.
CVs	2 pages each	Required for all named applicants and named research staff only. Including a named Research Technical Professional / Research Software Engineer is encouraged where appropriate. CVs for key technical staff can be included where appropriate although they are not mandatory. All CVs should be collated and uploaded as a single pdf.
Letters of support – Demand & Collaborative	Variable	Letters of support demonstrating community demand are mandatory , at the time of submission, and proposals submitted without these letters will be rejected prior to assessment. Please ensure that all letters of support are on headed paper and that they are signed and dated within 6 months of the date of submission of the proposal. Only directly relevant letters of support should be submitted. See below for further guidance. A maximum of 10 letters of support demonstrating community demand should be provided. Carefully chosen letters containing relevant evidence of the requirement/ benefit to be gained, are of greater value than large numbers of letters. Collaborative letters of support may be provided as necessary. All letters of support plus a tabulated summary should be collated and uploaded as a single pdf.
Proposal cover letter		Applicants should indicate whether they are applying for funding to support an existing resource. Applicants' conflicts of interest will also need to be added to the Proposal Cover Letter, please refer to the UKRI website for further guidance.

Guidance for completion of BBR Fund application documents

Case for Support (maximum of 8 sides of A4)

The Case for Support should be a self-contained description of the proposed resource. It should include the following:

- Previous research track record of all applicants, including:
 - Summary of the results and conclusions of recent work relevant to the proposed resource, both referencing BBSRC funded and non-BBSRC funded work. Details of past collaborative work with industry and/or with other beneficiaries should be given.
 - Indication of where previous work has had impact, including contributions to the UK's economic competitiveness or to improving the quality of life.
 - Specific expertise available at the host organisation and any proposed partner organisations.
 - Proposed role of the involved applicants and collaborators
- Background and context
 - Introduction of the proposed resource, including its academic and wider economic and societal context
 - Overview of past and current resource(s) in the subject area in both the UK and abroad including community resources available
- Details for the proposed resource
 - Potential for economic and social impact beyond the academic community
 - Objectives for the proposal and individual measurable targets against which the outcome of the work will be assessed. This should refer to the objectives set out in the Je-S proposal form.
 - If applicable, outline any proposed research efforts and how they directly facilitate development of the resource
 - Consideration of the long-term sustainability of the resource beyond BBSRC funding, as well as the true cost of running and maintaining the resource in question. The proposal should include:
 - Cost recovery plans, where appropriate, or an explanation why not if not viable
 - Details for alternative support plans, aside from BBSRC funding
 - Clear arguments as to why BBSRC should support the resource now, if other cost recovery and support plans are deemed unsuitable
 - Key points to be addressed for a new resource:
 - Project focus is on development of a new resource that is needed by a community of researchers in the BBSRC remit, and which does not currently exist elsewhere
 - UK bioscience community need is established, evidenced by letters of support from a diverse range of users in the community, and estimates of the number of researchers worldwide who might engage with or benefit from the resource. Some example data types may include:
 - Datasets (or samples) in public or private repositories
 - Citations or acknowledgments
 - Groups working in a relevant area who would benefit from the resource
 - Gap analysis with existing resources
 - Will the facility support a growing field of bioscience, what is the anticipated growth and does the proposal adequately accommodate this?
 - Evidence is provided as to how the resource plans to engage stakeholders and ensure that the resource meets their needs, and is used by the community targeted by the resource

- Key points to be addressed for an existing resource:
 - Project focus is on further development and/or essential maintenance to safeguard functionality of the resource
 - Ongoing UK bioscience community need is established, evidenced by usage data included in the proposal – with parties providing letters of support encouraged to include similar supporting data where appropriate. Some examples data types include:
 - Access requests from independent users/ sites
 - Citations or acknowledgements
 - Other public resources providing links to the resource
 - New major acquisitions captured by the resource
 - Does the facility continue to support a growing field of bioscience, what is the anticipated growth and does the proposal adequately accommodate this?
 - Evidence is provided as to whether the resource has achieved the level of engagement it originally anticipated, and consideration is given how the additional investment would change this.
- Overall resource management, e.g.
 - Management and advisory structure - Please note that having a strategic management board with a biologist as a user will be a requirement under the terms and conditions of the grant.
 - User engagement – awareness, access, needs / requirements
 - Staff training and support

Letters of Support

Evidence for community need

Letters of support demonstrating community need are mandatory, at the time of submission, and proposals submitted without these letters will be rejected prior to assessment.

Letters demonstrating community need should give an indication of community demand for the resource in question, demonstrating the breadth of research relevant to BBSRCs remit that the resource would underpin. A maximum of 10 letters of support demonstrating community demand should be provided.

BBSRC expects letters of support aimed at demonstrating demand to explain clearly the impact and benefit of the proposed resource on the writer's research and the associated community. Letters of support that fail to do so, in particular template letters indicating generic support without identifying a particular usage, are of negligible value for the assessment and should not be submitted. Carefully chosen letters containing relevant evidence of the requirement/ benefit to be gained, are of greater value than large numbers of letters.

'Collaborative' letters of support

'Collaborative' letters of support should be provided by collaborators who will provide expertise or resources necessary for the proposed work. Any number of these may be provided as necessary.

The separate letters of support and a tabulated summary of those letters should be collated and provided as one single pdf document.

Contact

Please provide as much information as possible in your email to ensure a rapid response.

For call-specific queries please contact: bbr.fund@bbsrc.ukri.org

For Je-S system queries please contact:

- Email: JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk
- Tel: +44 (0) 1793 44 4164