2018 Bioinformatics and Biological Resources Fund – Frequently Asked Questions

1. My proposal involves partners from multiple institutions. Should I submit a single application or joint applications from multiple institutions?

Either approach is acceptable.

2. How can I demonstrate community need / demand for my resource?

Community need / demand can be demonstrated via provision of 'demand' letters of support representative of the utility of the resource to the research community it will serve. Other indicators might include usage statistics for existing resources, feedback from user surveys, and evidence of user engagement/ consultation in the development of the project objectives.

3. Why is there a limit on the number of 'demand' letters of support?

The BBR Fund Panel has frequently commented that it is the content of the letters provided, rather than the sheer number, which demonstrates the value of a proposed resource to the UK bioscience research community. Applicants should submit a representative selection of letters that demonstrate the breadth of the research their resource will enable and comment on the value of the work proposed to the research community.

4. Is it possible to apply for continuation funding of an existing resource previously funded under the BBR Fund?

Requests for continuation funding to support existing, BBR-funded resources are permitted under this call, provided a number of key points are addressed in the proposal:

- Project focus is on **further development** of the resource
- **Ongoing UK bioscience community need** is established, in the shape of 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
- **Long-term sustainability** of the resource beyond BBSRC funding, as well as the true cost of running and maintaining the resource in question, have been considered. The proposal should include:
  - Cost recovery plans, where appropriate
  - Details for alternative support plans outside of BBSRC funding
  - Clear arguments as to why BBSRC should continue to support the resource, should cost recovery and other alternatives be deemed unsuitable

Proposals for continuation funding will be assessed alongside and in competition with all other proposals submitted to the call.

5. What is the membership of the assessment panel?

Overall assessment will be conducted by a panel of experts covering scientific, managerial, technical and user aspects of resource provision. The 2018 panel will be published once the assessment is concluded.

6. I previously submitted a grant application that was unsuccessful. Can I submit the proposal to the BBR Fund?

Any proposal related to a previously unsuccessful grant application must comply with BBSRC's resubmission policy (see [BBSRC Grants Guide](#)). Applicants are advised to contact the office prior to submitting an application if they are concerned that their project may be considered a resubmission. Applications that are deemed to constitute uninvited resubmissions will be rejected from the call.

7. When is the outcome of the call likely to be known?

We are unable to give a precise date by which outcomes will be announced, but it is anticipated that we will be able to notify applicants by the end of April 2019.

8. I wish to develop a resource with both biological and bioinformatics components, is this allowed?

Yes.

9. My proposal has relevance to other Research Council's scientific remit. Will it be suitable for the BBR Fund?

The main focus of the proposed resource should be the support of bioscience research, but resources with broader applicability will be considered. Resources with a main focus outside of BBSRC remit will be rejected prior to assessment. Applicants needing further guidance on the suitability of a proposal for the BBR Fund are strongly advised to contact the office prior to submission (bbr.fund@bbsrc.ukri.org).

10. What is the scale of resources that can be requested?

Total requested costs should not exceed £2M (100% FEC value). Funding is available for up to 5 years.

11. Does the BBR Fund support genome sequencing projects?

Genome sequencing projects are not supported by the fund. Sequencing may be performed where this is needed in order to establish a particular resource; for example, the sequencing of gene libraries.

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