

## David Phillips Fellowship Frequently Asked Questions

### FAQs

#### **Can I carry out a DPF at my current Research Organisation?**

Yes, you can carry out a DPF at your current Research Organisation, there is no requirement to move. However, you need to demonstrate the independence of your proposed research from that of your current supervisor and fully justify why the host Research Organisation proposed is the best place for you to carry out your research and to develop your independence.

#### **Can I carry out a DPF at an overseas Research Organisation?**

Periods of research can be conducted at overseas Research Organisations, but the host organisation that employs the fellow and holds the DPF award must be based in the UK. Any period of research away from the primary host must be fully justified and supported by letters from the proposed collaborating organisations.

#### **Can non-UK citizens apply for a DPF?**

Yes, BBSRC's fellowship competitions are open to overseas candidates but the fellowship must be hosted by a UK university or BBSRC-sponsored institute. All successful applicants who require a visa to work in the UK will be eligible to be considered under the Global Talent route. This replaces the previous Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) route.

**Information for Economic Area Applicants** - EU applicants should refer to guidance on the UKRI website regarding the effects of EU exit (<https://www.ukri.org/research/international/ukri-eu-exit/eu-exit-people-mobility/>).

#### **Can the duration of the DPF applied for be less than five years?**

No, DPF proposals must be for five years and be costed as such. However, awards can be undertaken on a part-time basis if appropriate. The BBSRC Fellowships Handbook download contains further details.

#### **I hold, or have previously held, a lecturer level (or equivalent) post. Can I apply for a DPF?**

No, as detailed in the BBSRC Fellowships Handbook, applicants must not hold, or have held,

an academic position at lecturer level (or the equivalent in institutions other than universities), nor should they have had an offer of such an appointment prior to the commencement of a fellowship, if awarded. This is irrespective of whether the lecturer level position is based on a fixed-term or an open-ended contract. Full eligibility details can be found in the Fellowships Handbook. **Please note that if applicants have previously applied for BBSRC grant funding as a Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator (therefore confirming that they hold a lecturer level or equivalent post) they are not eligible to apply for a BBSRC fellowship.**

### **Can DPF applicants also apply for a BBSRC New Investigator (NI) grant?**

No, as detailed in the [BBSRC Grants Guide](#), applicants for an NI grant must hold a lecturer level or equivalent post. If an applicant is eligible to apply for an NI grant, thereby confirming that they hold a lecturer level or equivalent post, then they are not eligible to apply for a DPF (see previous question also)

### **Can I apply for a DPF if I have less than three years of postdoctoral research experience?**

Applicants with less than three years of active postdoctoral research experience can apply, however the DPF scheme is highly competitive with few awards available. Candidates that have less than three years of active postdoctoral experience are normally less competitive than those who have had longer postdoctoral experience, therefore these applicants tend to be rejected at the early stages of the assessment process. However, candidates who feel that their track record is exceptional at this early stage of their career, can submit a proposal with a cover letter clearly demonstrating why they have applied to the scheme and highlighting their exceptional track record and achievements.

### **Can I apply for other fellowship and grant awards at the same time as applying for a DPF?**

The BBSRC allows applicants to apply to other organisations (with the same or a different project) whilst applying for BBSRC fellowship funding. However, you should check with other Research Councils/organisations for their rules on applications to other organisations. Your proposed project should be primarily focused on the remit of each organisation you are applying to; it is not permissible to submit a proposal with the same project to two different Research Councils.

**Note: David Phillips Fellowship applicants are not eligible to apply to any additional 2020 BBSRC fellowship competitions. Additionally, applicants for a BBSRC David Phillips Fellowship are not permitted to simultaneously apply to the UK Research and Innovation Future Leaders Fellowship call in the same calendar year.**

### **If I have a UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship application in progress can I still apply for a DPF?**

This depends on which UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship (FLF) call you applied to. If your FLF application was submitted in the year preceding the DPF proposal deadline then yes, you may apply for a DPF. However, you must inform BBSRC immediately should you be awarded a UKFI FLF as your DPF proposal will need to be withdrawn from the round.

## **What should my Career Development Plan include?**

The Career Development Plan should be used to identify your training needs and to clearly describe how the award of a fellowship will allow you to embark upon independent research and to develop your career. For applicants not experienced in developing a Career Development Plan, BBSRC recommends you consult with your Research Organisation's Staff Development group prior to submission of your proposal.

## **What is the difference between the BBSRC DPF and the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Future Leaders Fellowship (FLF)?**

The DPF supports researchers wishing to establish their first independent research group to undertake a programme of excellent research that addresses questions within any area of BBSRC remit; proposals that are aligned with BBSRC's overarching strategic priorities are particularly encouraged. The UKRI FLF provides long-term support and flexibility to outstanding early career researchers and innovators, enabling them to establish their independence and undertake adventurous, difficult or multi-disciplinary research programmes that could not be achieved without long-term funding or a highly multi-disciplinary approach. Support will be provided across UKRI's remit, with no barriers to multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research and innovation.

## **Contact**

### **Innovation and Skills Group – Fellowships**

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