KEY FEATURES OF UKRI-BBSRC DOCTORAL TRAINING PARTNERSHIPS

This annex details ten key features of the proposed Doctoral Training Partnerships scheme:

i. Competitive assessment of training strategy and environment
   - We recognise the value of a competitive approach in driving up standards, as against using an algorithmically-based allocation route, and will continue to operate a competitive assessment process, including interviews, for the third DTP call.

ii. Concentration of doctoral training into up to 15 DTPs
   - The indicative number of approximately 15 DTPs will allow sizeable investments to be made in each Partnership.
   - The concentration of funding on major training centres provides DTPs with the flexibility to use the training grant in a more strategic way, and encourages joined-up thinking and the sharing of best practice within or between institutions.
   - The concentration also enables strategic engagement between Partnerships and UKRI-BBSRC, and inter-partnership best practice sharing.

iii. Institution-level or multi-institution bids only, with a minimum threshold of £20M in UKRI-BBSRC research grant spend over three-years required for eligibility
   - UKRI-BBSRC DTP competitions allow Research Organisations to bid for Training Grants at an institution-level or multi-institution level only.
   - The requirement that bids be institutional or multi-institutional allows for the sharing of good practice across an institution and between institutions; it promotes greater integration and strategic coordination in the provision of PhD training; and facilitates greater interdisciplinary and inter-department and – institution research and training.

In addition to the ten key features please refer to the UKRI Statement of Expectations for Postgraduate Training¹, the Research Council Common Terminology for Postgraduate Training², and the Joint Vision for Collaborate Training³ for further information.

¹ https://www.ukri.org/files/legacy/skills/statementofexpectation-revisedseptember2016v2-pdf/
³ https://www.ukri.org/files/legacy/skills/rcdvision-pdf/
iv. Institutions will work to a Portfolio Agreement

- The UKRI-BBSRC DTP competition requires Partnerships to submit a Portfolio Agreement which will be assessed as part of their bid.
- The Portfolio Agreement outlines how the DTP will align its research training to UKRI-BBSRC’s priorities. It outlines a number of key aspects of PhD training and programme management that Partnerships commit to providing.
- The Portfolio Agreement forms the basis of our Partnership ‘contract’ with the DTPs for the provision of excellent research training and is also used for ongoing dialogue and monitoring.
- We will continue to use Portfolio Agreements as part of the assessment process for DTPs and in our on-going strategic engagement and monitoring activities.

v. Capacity Building across Core Bioscience Disciplines

- UKRI-BBSRC DTPs will deliver leading edge, frontier bioscience research training across the remit of biological science and biotechnology.
- Partnerships will identify areas of research and training strength where they can set studentship targets to address strategic bioscience skills and capacity challenges.
- Applicants are encouraged to embrace interdisciplinary approaches to bioscience where there is a strategic need for these skills and where the Partnership has the capability to do so.
- We will provide the Assessment Panel with up-to-date information on UKRI-BBSRC research spend against its priority research areas, and also data on the portfolio of research grant income for the partners to inform its decision.

vi. Professional Internships for PhD Students and CASE

- UKRI-BBSRC expects all doctoral candidates on a DTP programme to undertake a minimum of three months on placement either through the Professional Internships for PhD Students (PIPS) component or through a CASE studentship.
- A new feature of DTP3 will be a separate allocation of CASE awards where Partnerships will be assessed on the strength of their industrial collaborations and plans for the development of new collaborations, especially with small and medium-sized enterprises.
- This replaces the method used in DTP2 which allocated CASE studentships algorithmically in proportion to the number of standard studentships.

vii. Significant role for UKRI-BBSRC in strategic engagement / post-award monitoring

- A key element in ensuring that Partnerships keep to the commitments made in their Portfolio Agreements will be on-going strategic engagement from UKRI-BBSRC and its nominees.
- The current DTPs host visits from UKRI-BBSRC at their Management Board meetings. In addition, DTP leads and operational managers have attended a DTP Best Practice Workshop hosted by UKRI-BBSRC. The intention is to continue these strategic engagement activities.
- All doctoral candidates on a DTP programme will be expected to provide updates of their outputs, outcomes and impacts on our nominated online systems.
### viii. Flexible Supplement Fund (FSF) to be distributed across successful Partnerships

- The FSF will provide DTPs in receipt of it with additional flexibility to support added value training for doctoral candidates and the widening participation of underrepresented social groups in the DTP.
- A total of £500,000 p.a. to be split across successful partnerships.
- The FSF will replace the separate Research Experience Placements and advanced *in vivo* skills training budgets from DTP2.
- The FSF will not be automatically assigned to successfully proposals, instead, partnerships will have the opportunity to bid for an allocation of the funding.

### ix. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan

- Inclusivity is a core feature of DTP3 and UKRI-BBSRC expects all Partnerships to provide a dedicated two page equality, diversity and inclusion plan detailing their strategy for the wide participation of doctoral candidates from all backgrounds, as well as the support systems in place to protect their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

### x. Partnerships to provide administrative support

- Partnerships are expected to provide an appropriate level of FTE support to lead and manage the DTP’s activities for the number of studentships they are allocated. These activities will include data collection and reporting to UKRI-BBSRC.
- Match funding of studentships into the DTP is encouraged, but is not a mandatory requirement.