Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy in the Developing World (IBBEDW)
Guidance for applicants

Call status
Open

Call launch date
Monday 16 April 2018

Application deadline
Wednesday 6 June 2018, 16:00 GMT

Summary
BBSRC is pleased to announce a total of £5M to support a number of collaborative research and development projects addressing challenges relating to Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy in the Developing World.

The call for Industrial Biology and Bioenergy in the Developing World will develop the potential to utilise different biogenic feedstocks (e.g. crop residues) for the purpose of generating multiple (valuable) products (e.g. energy, pharmaceutical/chemical precursors and clean water) in a sustainable way using biotechnologies to help support economic and welfare activities in the developing world.

The call is funded from the UK government’s Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). As well as being scientifically excellent, research supported under it must meet the criteria for classification of expenditure as Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Funds can be requested for up to 3 years, and projects must be completed by 1 February 2022. Applications must not exceed a maximum of £2.0 million (at 100% of their full economic cost).

Purpose and aims
Industrial Biotechnology is the use of biological resources for producing and processing materials, chemicals and energy. These resources include animal cells, plants, algae, marine life, fungi and micro-organisms.

The call, Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy in the Developing World, seeks proposals to support collaborative research projects that will:

- Use excellent research involving biological systems to solve key problems in the developing world.
- Utilise widely available biogenic feedstocks and through the application of biological systems, convert those feedstocks to generate multiple (valuable) products.
• Use the products generated to support improved economic and welfare developments in the hosting country.

Integral to the call will be appropriate chemical and engineering approaches alongside the use of biological mechanisms to ensure processes will function effectively.

There is a large unmet need in the developing world covering a range of non-food and non-clinical applications and industrial biotechnology can help meet many of those needs, leading to wealth generation and sustained economic development.

For example in sub-Saharan Africa over 40% of the population live in absolute poverty and 620 million live without electricity. Over 730 million people rely on dangerous inefficient forms of cooking and the use of solid biomass outweighs all other forms of fuel. In addition 600,000 people die each year from pulmonary diseases directly attributed to using this biomass as fuel. Overall biomass use leads to deforestation, subsistence farming and poor health and alternatives to burning biomass for cooking (eg local or domestic biogas generation) are desperately sought. Poor waste management has led to badly polluted water systems especially in semi urban areas with the resultant problems in health and in land and water sustainability. Effective bio-based solutions to these problems will make a significant contribution to health and welfare of the local communities.

The African Union has recognised the importance of harnessing biotechnology as a part of Africa’s economic development and has been developing a co-evolutionary approach where technology development progresses hand in hand with regulation to ensure that the continent gets the economic benefits without compromising the safety of its people and environment and loses aspects of its key biomass through exploitation. Adaption to climate change is a high priority for those regions which are most impoverished and most vulnerable to its effects.

Industrial biotechnology has the potential to unlock these cycles of poverty by simultaneously remediating land, air and water, developing energy security, job creation, income diversification, rural development and improvements in the general health of the population as well as an impact on carbon emissions to reduce the consequences of climate change.

This Global Challenges Research Fund sponsored call will allow the development of collaborative research projects between the UK’s world class industrial biotechnology community and colleagues and institutions in the developing world. Through these collaborative research projects, it is anticipated that a new generation of researchers and technologies will be developed ensuring continuation of the benefits gained from the project for the partner DAC country.

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1 Research Challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa – Workshop and meeting results – ADNet Workshop report
2 Building UK – Africa Partnerships in Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy, P2P network report
Background to the call

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) is a £1.5 billion fund announced by the UK Government in late 2015 to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries. Alongside the other GCRF delivery partners we are creating complementary programmes that:

- promote challenge-led disciplinary and interdisciplinary research, including the participation of researchers who may not previously have considered the applicability of their work to development issues
- capacity for research, innovation and knowledge exchange in the UK and developing countries through partnership with excellent UK research and researchers
- provide an agile response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need.

GCRF forms part of the UK’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment, which is monitored by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Further information is available from the [UKRI Website](https://www.ukri.org).

Scope

This call for proposals seeks to support research projects that will use industrial biotechnologies to allow the extraction of multiple products from biogenic feedstocks, delivering sustainable economic and welfare benefits to the hosting country or community.

Proposals should therefore contain a clear demonstration that they utilise the power of industrial biotechnology to deliver a healthy, prosperous and sustainable future in the partner country. Proposals will need to meet the definition of Industrial Biotechnology: applicants will need to clearly indicate the feedstocks on which their projects are based, the biological processes involved and the outputs in terms of materials, chemicals and energy. Applicants should note that food and animal feed are not the primary outputs of industrial biotechnology research.

Proposals should include relevant activities in genomic, systems and synthetic biology and will need to consider the ethical, legal social and environmental impacts of the chosen approach.

There are multiple areas of opportunity for proposals including:

- Developing methods to clean up contaminated land and water to restore land for use by the local community with the possibility of revalorising waste-streams, using biological systems to recover eg valuable metals (often as potentially valuable bio-nanomaterials)
- Using plants grown on marginal land for medicinal or veterinary products or precursors and extracting maximum value from the plant material so yielding fibre, fertiliser and energy carriers (fuel).
- Using microorganisms to process residues including waste water, generating energy carriers (eg methane) and clean water
- Converting crop and food residues to biogas providing sustainable energy for local or regional communities.

The expected output of each project will work toward the development of a conceptual biorefinery and will encompass not just the scientific research, but socioeconomic values of the collaborative research as well.

All proposals submitted to this Call should therefore:
• Demonstrate the research proposed is scientifically excellent.
• Identify and address a specific problem or seek a specific outcome which will impact on the economic development and welfare of a developing country or countries on the DAC list in the immediate or longer term.
• Provide evidence on the scale of the problem being addressed to the developing world.
• Demonstrate the co-design of a collaborative research project between UK academics and academics from relevant institutions in the partner DAC country that address the problem.
• Articulate a clear and specific case for the primary benefit and relevance of the proposed research to countries on the DAC list.
• Consider the pathway to realising the development impact (even if outside the timeframe of the project).

The Global Challenges Research Fund

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) is a £1.5 billion fund announced by the UK Government in late 2015 to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries. Alongside the other GCRF delivery partners we are creating complementary programmes that:

• promote challenge-led disciplinary and interdisciplinary research, including the participation of researchers who may not previously have considered the applicability of their work to development issues
• strengthen capacity for research, innovation and knowledge exchange in the UK and developing countries through partnership with excellent UK research and researchers
• provide an agile response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need.

GCRF forms part of the UK’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment, which is monitored by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and Development (OECD). Further information is available from the [UKRI Website](#).

Eligibility

UK applicants

Applications must be led by an eligible Principal Investigator (PI) in the UK. Standard BBSRC eligibility conditions apply to UK applicants for this call. See section 3 of the BBSRC Grants Guide and the UKRI list of eligible organisations [list of eligible organisations](#) (for further details).

The Principal Investigator and her or his research organisation:
  i. will be identified as the PI on the Je-S form and will be responsible for submitting a single Je-S proposal on behalf of all participating organisations;
  ii. will be the recipient of the award, and will manage and be accountable for the finances of the partnership in accordance with the terms and conditions of the award, including disbursing funds to the other eligible participating organisations and fulfilling BBSRC’s financial and scientific reporting requirements.

Overseas Co-Investigators
Applications may additionally include (for this call only) eligible Co-Investigators (Co-Is) based in any of the DAC countries listed in the Downloads section.

Overseas Co-Is should hold a position of lecturer level or equivalent status in a university or other recognised higher education institution or other research institution, or other 'not-for-profit' organisation with a credible and relevant research capacity, based in an eligible DAC country (see list of eligible countries in Downloads section). This includes researchers at both national institutions of eligible DAC countries and establishments of international organisations located in those countries. It does not include establishments of international organisations which are located elsewhere.

All applicants named on the Je-S form must be registered as users of the Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) system well in advance of submitting the application.

**Researcher Co-Investigators**

A Researcher Co-Investigator describes a postdoctoral research assistant (PDRA) or equivalent (being ineligible to be either Principal or Co-Investigator in his or her own right) who has made a substantial intellectual contribution to the formulation and development of the proposal, and would be engaged in the ensuing research. This status can be used by a PDRA as evidence of involvement in acquiring research funding.

Researcher Co-Investigators based at the institution(s) of either the UK Principal or Co-Investigator(s) may be included. Researcher Co-Investigators based at the institutions of overseas Co-Investigators (described above) are not permitted. For detailed guidance, please see Section 3 of the BBSRC Grants Guide.

Funding for any type of studentship, whether in the UK or overseas, may not be requested on applications to this call.

**Project Partners and collaborators**

As detailed in Section 2 of the BBSRC Grants Guide, researchers or others not eligible to be Co-Is may be included in proposals as Project Partners or collaborators. Neither Project Partners nor other collaborators would receive funding from BBSRC. Project Partners or other collaborators may be based in universities or other institutions, or independent researchers. They may also be potential users of research outcomes, including commercial organisations. Collaboration with industry is encouraged where relevant, but must not compromise the ODA compliance of the proposed research by inappropriately restricting use of its outcomes by potential beneficiaries (see section below on ‘Data sharing, open access and intellectual property’).

**Sub-contracting**

Where necessary - for example, because of the lack of the required expertise in eligible institutions - aspects of the proposed research may be sub-contracted to an otherwise ineligible organisation.

Funds for sub-contracting must be disseminated via the lead UK Research Organisation, and will be funded by BBSRC at 80% of the full economic cost (fEC), in accordance with the information in Section 2 of the BBSRC Grants Guide.

**Remit**

The proposed research must be predominantly within BBSRC’s remit, include a substantial element of investigative bioscience, and fit within the scope of the call.
If you are unsure whether your proposed research would be appropriate for this call, please send an outline of what you plan to do to ibbedw@bbsrc.ac.uk and BBSRC staff will be able to advise you.

**BBSRC Schemes**

The following BBSRC schemes do **not** apply to this call: New Investigator; Industrial Partnership Awards; and Industrial LINK.

**ODA Compliance**

All research funded through this call will form part of the UK’s Official Development Assistance, as defined by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Guidance on the definition and its interpretation is provided in the OECD’s ‘Is it ODA?’ factsheet (see ‘External links’).

Applicants must complete an ODA compliance questionnaire (see Downloads section) to demonstrate that the primary purpose of their proposed research is to promote the economic development and welfare of people in DAC countries. The scale and breadth of its potential impact will be an important consideration in the assessment of proposals. Proposals that do not articulate clearly the ODA relevance of the research will be rejected prior to peer review.

To ensure ODA compliance, you should consider the following aspects when preparing your application:

- Your proposed research should investigate a specific problem or seek a specific outcome which will impact on the economic development and welfare of your partner country[ies] in the immediate or longer-term
- The benefit and relevance of the proposed research to your partner country[ies] should be clear
- You will need to consider the pathway to achieving impact (during and after the lifetime of the research grant).

Proposals can:

- Focus on a development topic or address an unmet capacity need in the partner country
- Proposals do not need to be solely relevant to developing countries, but developing countries should be the primary beneficiaries. Secondary benefits to the UK should be articulated.

BBSRC does not expect research funded through this call to achieve demonstrable impact in the target country during the lifetime of the grant. However, applications will need to demonstrate the potential contribution of the proposed research to the use of biotechnological approaches in partner DAC countries, together with the pathway to impact and timescale by which it would be achieved.

**Project scale and duration**

Up to £5 million is available, subject to the quality of proposals received, with the aim of supporting a balanced portfolio of around 3 to 5 projects across the scope of the call. Applications must not exceed a maximum of £2 million (at 100% of their full economic cost).

Funds can be requested for up to three years. Projects are expected be completed by 1 February 2022.
**Eligible costs**

This call encourages integrated partnerships between researchers in the UK and ODA DAC listed countries, with clear and complementary roles, and equitable divisions of responsibilities and resources between researchers in the DAC listed country and the UK. BBSRC will fund the UK component(s) of any successful collaboration. BBSRC will also fund overseas Co-Investigators, and associated costs, if eligible (see guidance below). BBSRC strongly recommend that there should be an integrated partnership with UK academics and researchers from DAC listed countries that is integral to the application.

A single Je-S application (pro forma) should be submitted by the research organisation of the UK PI on behalf of all participating organisations. **Please take particular care to include sufficient costs to support an international project such as travel and subsistence in addition to salary (investigators and PDRAs) and consumables**

**Eligible UK costs**

UK components should follow the guidelines outlined in Section 5 of the BBSRC Grants Guide and be costed on the basis of full economic costs (fEC). If the grant is awarded, BBSRC will provide funding on the basis of 80% of fEC.

Please ensure you specify clearly in the description field if you are requesting the use of any BBSRC facilities. Any costs requested for the use of facilities at the Earlham Institute should be listed under The Genome Analysis Centre (TGAC) on the Je-S submission.

**Eligible overseas costs**

Costs associated with overseas Co-Investigators should be included in the Je-S submission as Exceptions. For eligible Co-Investigators’ institutions in DAC listed countries, BBSRC will pay in full the Directly Incurred costs of the research, together with a contribution towards the associated Indirect and Estates costs calculated as 20% of the Directly Incurred costs.

Details of funding and a breakdown of the costings for overseas applicants should be recorded in the ‘Overseas resource requests’ spreadsheet available in the Downloads section. Guidance on how to complete this is provided in the first tab on the spreadsheet.

The following costs may be requested for overseas Co-Investigators:

- Costs for overseas Co-Investigators and any locally employed staff, i.e. percentage contribution of actual salary representing the proportion of each person’s time to be spent working on the grant. These costs must be entered as Exceptions under the Other Directly Incurred costs on Je-S at 100% fEC
- Travel and subsistence for overseas Co-Investigators. These costs must be entered as Exceptions under the Travel and Subsistence costs on Je-S at 100% fEC
- Costs charged by the overseas organisation and associated with the research, for example consumables and small items of equipment costing less than £10,000, field work, etc. These costs must be entered as Exceptions under the Other Directly Incurred costs on Je-S at 100% fEC
- A contribution towards Indirect and Estates costs at the overseas organisation. This should be calculated as 20% of the overseas research organisation’s Directly Incurred costs. This total should be entered as an Exception under the Other Directly Incurred costs on Je-S
Councils expect Directly Incurred staff to use timesheets so that their actual time is recorded against a project to form the basis of the costs charged. For more details of the audit requirements for Directly Incurred costs please see Section 5.6 of the Grants Guide.

The following will **not** be funded under this call in either the UK or DAC partner countries:

- any types of studentships;
- items of equipment costing more than £10,000 or other capital expenditure.
- In accordance with the UKRI Terms and Conditions of Research Grants (see ‘External links’), UK PIs will be responsible for performing due diligence in order to provide assurance to BBSRC’s accounting officer that funds have been disbursed in an appropriate manner. No funding will be released by BBSRC until it is satisfied that due diligence will be performed to an acceptable standard. This information must be provided to BBSRC on the ‘Assurance Questionnaire’ which is available in the Downloads section. Submission of this form is mandatory and applications which do not include a completed Assurance Questionnaire will be rejected. The form will be used by the RCUK Funding Assurance team to ensure that adequate due diligence processes are in place. For applications which are recommended for funding, RCUK will complete due diligence checks on all overseas partners before the grants are authorised. The lead UK RO will be expected to help with this process. Please see [Due Diligence guidance for UK Research Organisations](#).

**How to apply**

If you have any queries about eligibility please contact ibbedw@bbsrc.ac.uk.

Apply using the Je-S website by 16:00 on 6th June 2018. 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.

In order to see the BBRSC Fund call in Je-S, select the ‘Documents’ section on the right hand side and then under the ‘Functions’ section select ‘New Document’ and follow the options from the drop-down menus:

- Log in the Joint Electronic System (Je-S)
  - Select Council: BBSRC
  - Select Document Type: Standard Proposal
  - Select Scheme: Standard
  - Select Call: Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy in the Developing World (GCRF)
  - Select ‘Create Document’

Applications must be submitted by UK Research Organisations that are eligible to receive funding from BBSRC. Information about eligible organisations is available on the [UKRI website](#).

**Completing your Je-S submission and attachments**

Once your application document is created, the Je-S form should for the most part be completed in the standard way using the guidance and help text available in the Je-S system.
Please remember that all aspects of the proposal submitted to BBSRC via Je-S should be jointly developed by, and submitted on behalf of, the whole of the project team.

Overseas Co-Is must be named on the Je-S pro forma as applicants. However, their effort, salary, and cost estimate must be entered as ‘0’. Costs for overseas Co-Is should be entered as described in the Eligible Overseas Costs section above.

Applications to this call will also be required to prepare and submit a number of additional documents as “attachments”. Guidance on the specific attachments you are required to submit with the Je-S application is provided below.

Unless otherwise stated, all documents should be prepared in English, should be jointly prepared, and should relate to the project as a whole and cover all project components. Documents should meet standard Research Council rules, as described in the Je-S Help text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attachment</th>
<th>Maximum page length</th>
<th>Attachment type on Je-S submission</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joint Case for Support</td>
<td>10 sides of A4</td>
<td>Case for Support</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Combined CVs</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>CV</td>
<td>A CV (max two sides of A4 per person) should be included for all named applicants and research staff. These should be combined into one document and submitted on Je-S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters of support</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Letter of Support</td>
<td>All letters of support (maximum of one side of A4 each) should be combined into one document and submitted on Je-S.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justification of Resources</td>
<td>Maximum of 3 sides of A4</td>
<td>Justification of Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Official Development Assistance (ODA) Questionnaire</td>
<td>1 side of A4</td>
<td>Non-UK component</td>
<td>Downloadable template on in Downloads section</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assurance Questionnaire</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Other attachment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overseas Resource Requests spreadsheet</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Other attachment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pathways to Impact statement</td>
<td>3 sides of A4</td>
<td>Pathways to Impact impact</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data Management Plan</td>
<td>1 side of A4</td>
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Diagrammatic Workplan 1 side of A4 Diagrammatic Workplan

Facility Form None Technical Assessment Form Only required if a project requests access to BBSRC facilities

The following documents must be prepared and uploaded as PDF attachments to your application:

Proposal Cover Letter (up to 1 side of A4)
Applicants’ Declarations of Interests are required to be added to the Proposal Cover Letter – please see the guidance provided at https://www.ukri.org/files/legacy/documents/declarationofinterests-applicants-pdf/

How to apply - BBSRC

Joint Case for Support (up to 10 sides of A4)
Applicants wishing to apply to this call must provide a Case for Support, making the detailed scientific case for the proposed research. Applicants should complete this with the call assessment criteria in mind, and are encouraged to provide information on the following:
  (a) Research track record of the applicants and specific expertise (and access to any specific infrastructure and equipment required to undertake the project) available for the research at the named organisations.
  (b) Background to the topic of research and its wider context, including current priorities and challenges relevant to the project in the participating countries.
  (c) Details of the proposed research and activities to be conducted within the project, including the proposed programme of work, individual measurable objectives against which you would wish the work to be assessed, the proposed methodology and expected outputs, and the scientific excellence and novelty of the proposal.
  (d) The project management plan must be included with the joint case for support.

Combined CVs (2 sides of A4 per named applicant and research staff)
Please provide a single combined PDF document, containing a CV for all named applicants and research staff involved in the project (both UK and overseas).

Letters of Support (up to 1 side of A4 per research organisation)
Please provide a single combined PDF document, containing an official letter of support from the Head of Department/Institute Director for each Research Organisation involved in the project (both UK and overseas). This should include a letter of support from the lead UK institution. All project partners and other collaborators are expected to provide a letter of support. Only directly relevant letters of support should be submitted. These should be on headed paper, signed and dated.

Justification of Resources (up to 3 sides of A4)
All resources requested to undertake the project should be fully justified. The Justification of Resources should provide a breakdown and full written justification of costs requested for the entire project.

Official Development Assistance (ODA) Questionnaire (up to 1 side of A4)
Please complete and attach the ODA Compliance Questionnaire (in Downloads section), explaining how your proposed research is compliant with ODA guidelines. This should be uploaded as an attachment type “Non-UK component”. Guidance on the definition of ODA and its interpretation is provided in the OECD’s ‘Is it ODA?’ factsheet (see ‘External links’).
**Assurance questionnaire**

Please complete the assurance questionnaire for third party research providers. This questionnaire relates to funding received from the Research Councils, with elements subsequently sub-contracted out of the lead research organisation to either international Co-Is’ research organisations or other sub-contractors, e.g., NGOs or service-providers. **Submission of this form is mandatory** and applications which do not include a completed Assurance Questionnaire will be rejected. The form will be used by the RCUK Funding Assurance team to ensure that adequate due diligence processes are in place. For applications which are recommended for funding, RCUK will complete due diligence checks on all overseas partners before the grants are authorised. The lead UK RO will be expected to help with this process.

It will be a condition of funding that due diligence will be performed to an appropriate standard; failure to provide adequate assurances may result in the application being rejected. This should be uploaded as an attachment type “Other Attachment”.

**Overseas Resource Requests spreadsheet**

Please complete this spreadsheet to detail the breakdown of costs requested by overseas Co-Investigators. **Submission of this form is mandatory for all applications involving overseas Co-Investigators.** The spreadsheet should be uploaded as attachment type “Other Attachment” with the Je-S submission.

**Pathways to Impact statement** (up to 3 sides of A4)

Please include a statement on the significance and wider impact of the project which describes the likely impacts that will be generated by the proposed project. Applicants should highlight any opportunities for knowledge exchange and transfer and any wider socio-economic and environmental impacts and benefits of the research. This must be specific to the project and contain timelines and objectives. Please see the guidance provided at https://www.ukri.org/innovation/excellence-with-impact/

**Data Management Plan** (up to 1 side of A4)

Please include a description of the proposed data management and data sharing strategies across the whole consortium, including the management of intellectual property. Please see the guidance provided at https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/data-policy/common-principles-on-data-policy/ or

**Diagrammatic Workplan** (up to 1 side of A4):

Please submit a Gantt chart, or other diagrammatic work plan for the project, including timelines and milestones. The work plan cannot be used to extend the case for support. Applicants should ensure that work plan demonstrates equitable and integrated commitments to the project by African and UK participants, with appropriate divisions of responsibilities. You should also check if you need to provide the following document:

**Facility Form**

Please use this attachment type to provide a Technical Assessment Form if your project requests access to BBSRC facilities, referring to the Je-S help for guidance. Failure to include the required forms will result in rejection of the proposal.

**Timeline**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Call for Proposals Opens</td>
<td>16th April 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closing date for full proposals</td>
<td>6th June 2018</td>
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Assessment process

There will be a single stage process involving the submission of full proposals that will be subjected to external peer review followed by an expert panel (comprising relevant experts from the UK and overseas) that will score and rank the proposals for funding. Applicants will be given an opportunity to respond to reviewers’ assessments prior to the Panel meeting. The following will be taken into account when assessing the proposal.

- Scientific excellence;
- fit to the scope of the call;
- ODA relevance;
- Timeliness and promise;
- Capability of the research team;
- Appropriateness of the partnership between the UK and DAC country;
- Arrangements for project management;
- Value for money.

What about the ELSI requirements mentioned in the call text?

Funding decisions

BBSRC will make the final decisions on the projects to be funded based on the recommendations of the assessment panel. There is a total budget of £5 million available for this call and this total will not be exceeded.

All applicants will be advised whether their application has been recommended for funding or will be declined by BBSRC. All applicants will also receive feedback on their application.

The lead Research Organisation will receive an offer letter detailing the level of award and the terms and conditions: it is the responsibility of the lead Research Organisation to distribute copies as necessary. Prior to the issuing of the offer letter, the applicant may be asked to provide further information if the Panel felt that an element of the grant needs further explanation or justification.

Applicants below the funding cut-off will receive a letter informing them that their application was unsuccessful. This letter will include details of BBSRC’s resubmission policy.

Awards will be made under UKRI’s standard Terms and Conditions of Research Grants (see ‘External links’), with additional conditions specific to this call.

Post award considerations

Grant holders will be expected to comply with the award conditions and Grant Maintenance queries should be referred through Je-S. See: Joint electronic Submission (Je-S)

Due to GCRF financial constraints, grant extensions will only be considered under exceptional circumstances (in line with the Equality Act 2010) and will require Research Council agreement on a case-by-case basis.
Data sharing, open access and intellectual property

In accordance with UKRI’s terms and conditions of grants, the ownership and responsibility for exploitation of all intellectual assets, including intellectual property, arising from research funded under the IBBEDW programme will rest with the organisation that generates them.

Where a grant is associated with more than one research organisation and/or other project partner(s), there should be a formal agreement between them setting out the basis of their collaboration, including arrangements for ownership and management of intellectual property and rights to its exploitation. It is their collective responsibility to put in place such an agreement before the research begins.

The collaboration agreement must not conflict with UKRI’s terms and conditions or relevant national laws, nor compromise compliance of the research with the criteria for its classification as Official Development Assistance. It must not inappropriately restrict use of outcomes of the research by potential beneficiaries in any partner DAC county. Any licence(s) granted and subsequent commercial exploitation of the research outcomes are expected to be managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of Global Access (as exemplified by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation - http://globalaccess.gatesfoundation.org), i.e. that the findings of the research would be communicated promptly and broadly, and that products and technologies arising from the knowledge gained would be made available and accessible at reasonable cost to people most in need of them in developing countries.

Where appropriate, collaboration with industry would be welcomed in research under the IBBEDW programme, provided that arrangements for ownership and exploitation of intellectual property would not conflict with the expectation of alignment with the principles of Global Access. Commercial organisations may participate in research as additional Project Partners, but are not eligible to receive funding from the programme.

Data management

Applicants to this call should give full consideration to the practical requirements for data sharing both within the research teams and to the wider community and describe how this will be conducted. Applicants should ensure that they have requested appropriate resources for data management and data sharing.

Regulation and ethics

Research to be funded under this call must comply with all applicable regulatory requirements in the countries where it would be conducted. Approvals must be obtained as necessary in the UK and other participating countries, but all of the proposed research should be carried out in a way that is consistent with the UK’s usual ethical standards, whether it would be carried out in the UK or elsewhere.

Ethical considerations

All proposals must demonstrate a commitment to the principles of good research conduct, as described in the BBSRC statement on Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice and the UKRI Policy and Guidelines on the Governance of Good Research Conduct (see ‘Related links’).

Proposals should take account of the following principles for ethical research:

- research should aim to maximise benefit for individuals and society and minimise risk and harm
- the rights and dignity of individuals and groups should be respected
• wherever possible, participation should be voluntary and appropriately informed
• research should be conducted with integrity and transparency
• lines of responsibility and accountability should be clearly defined
• independence of research should be maintained and where conflicts of interest cannot be avoided they should be made explicit.

Researchers, research organisations and research ethics committees should consider ethics issues throughout the lifecycle of a research project and promote a culture of ethical reflection, debate and mutual learning. The lifecycle of research includes the planning and research design stage, the period of funding for the project, and all activities that relate to the project up to - and including - the time when funding has ended. This includes knowledge exchange and impact activities, the dissemination process - including reporting and publication - and the archiving, future use, sharing and linking of data.

We also expect non-academic stakeholders, including potential research users and intermediary organisations with a mandate to communicate research who are listed in the proposal, to be included and involved in both the early design and on-going conduct of research projects. This is especially the case where research is taking place within government systems, without compromising the independence or integrity of the research. There is recognition that the exploitation of new knowledge does not just occur at the end of a research project, but rather is embedded throughout the research process itself. The assessment panel will consider plans for involvement of non-academic stakeholders in the research process.

Use of animals

Experiments using animals funded by BBSRC must comply with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA), amended 2012 and any further embodiments. Institutions and grant holders are responsible for ensuring that all appropriate personal and project licences required under the Act have been granted by the Home Office, and that appropriate Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body approval has been given. All BBSRC awards are made on the absolute condition that no work that is controlled by the Act will begin until the necessary licences have been obtained.

Applicants must ensure that all of the proposed research, both in the UK and any partner country, will comply with the principles of BBSRC’s guidance on “Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research” (see ‘Related links’) and with the Animal Use requirements in Section 4 of the BBSRC Grants Guide. In particular, UK Institutions should be aware of the following aspect of the guidance relating to research or collaboration outside the UK:

“When collaborating with other laboratories, or where animal facilities are provided by third parties, researchers and the local ethics committee in the UK should satisfy themselves that welfare standards consistent with the principles of UK legislation (e.g. the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986), and set out in this guidance, are applied and maintained. Where there are significant deviations, prior approval from the funding body should be sought and agreed.”

All applications proposing to use animals in the UK and overseas should refer to the RCUK guidance and ensure they include a signed statement (Letter of Support) from both UK (and overseas PIs), indicating that they have fully and appropriately considered this animal usage.

http://www.ukri.org
Transfer of biological materials

Collection and exchange of material may occur between collaborating institutions, as necessary, in strict compliance with the legislation in effect in both countries.

Contact

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