



BBSRC INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR 2019

Frequently asked questions

I haven't been recommended, can I still apply?

Of course! Recommendations are only used to highlight potential applicants/candidates, because we often find that people are too modest to apply, or do not know about the competition and what it is about. We are interested in hearing from any researcher who has made a real difference to the impact of their research by for example taking their BBSRC-funded science out of the lab and into the real world.

Please note that there are separate links for applicants and recommendations. Use the former to start an application for yourself or your team, and the latter if you wish to recommend someone else – taking this step will prompt us to email them an invitation to apply.

I have been recommended, why do I need to fill out an application?

Unlike the Oscars, recommendations are only a start of the process. We need the information in the application form to fairly assess the impact stories of different applicants. These awards are about what the applicant or team has done to create impact from BBSRC research, and there is no way to capture that through an external recommendation alone. The form is not particularly long nor intended to be difficult, so we hope it does not present a barrier to putting yourself forward and sharing your impact story.

My impact is at an early stage, should I still apply?

Certainly, if you think you have a great potential impact story to tell and have been doing everything you can to make it happen. BBSRC Innovator of the Year aims to reward researchers who are driving impact, and is more about the personal endeavour than the scale of the impact itself. The impacts from investments in research rewarded in this competition can fall anywhere along a continuum of potential to fully realised, and across a large range of scales as well – your success in the competition will depend on a combination of these factors, as well as the role of the applicant in driving the impact journey.

I have applied to Innovator of the Year previously – can I apply again?

Yes, if you still meet the eligibility criteria you are welcome to reapply. However, you should be able to demonstrate that significant progress has been made on the impact since your previous application.

It's been over six years since my PhD, but I have career breaks or haven't worked full time – am I still eligible for the Early Career category?

Yes. BBSRC are only interested in periods of active postdoctoral research experience, and thereby makes allowances for periods of maternity/paternity leave, or for those seeking to return to research after a career break. The six-year limit refers to active research at 100% FTE, and periods of part-time work would extend this, pro-rata. For example, someone who has worked at 50% part-time since their PhD could be eligible for up to 12 years from their PhD viva.

I have been recommended but I'm not sure what for – is it possible to know?

Some do tell us what particular impact story they are putting the recommendation forward for, but we don't share this information in practice. We believe you are best placed to decide whether you are in a position to apply or not, and how you want to tell your impact story.

I am applying due to my work as a PhD student/post-doctoral researcher, should I put my Advisor/Supervisor/PI down as a co-applicant?

While we acknowledge the obvious contribution of PhD supervisors/Pis to their students' /post-docs' research and impact, in order to be considered in the Early Career Impact category, it is expected that the work done to understand and generate impact has been driven by you (the PhD student or post-doc) such that you would apply as an individual. You can choose to put your supervisor and other collaborators down as "Team Members", of course. Alternatively, you could consider a joint application to one of the other categories. Remember that for team applications, at least half the team should meet the eligibility requirements.

Please ensure you consult your supervisor or other co-applicant before putting them on your application. All applicants' sign up to the T&Cs and co-applicants are expected to appear at the interview, should your application be shortlisted, so it is important to get their consent.

How strict is the word limit on each section?

In order to be fair to all applicants, and to manage the workload for the Assessors, we will be insisting on strict word limits. These will be checked by the office and any extra words past the word limit will be discounted.

Contact

Email: Impact.awards@bbsrc.ukri.org