

Innovator of the Year Guidance notes

Please read these guidance notes before completing and submitting an online application to BBSRC's Innovator of the Year competition.

Overview

Now in its 10th year, this annual competition celebrates the successes of BBSRC-supported researchers (PhDs, post-doctoral scientists or primary and co-investigators at any stage of their career) in delivering economic and/or social impact from their excellent research.

Online application deadline: **30 January 2019 (16:00 GMT)**

The Competition

Researchers (either individually or in a team) are required to complete an online application detailing how they have taken the outcomes of their research toward economic and/or social impact. Applications will be assessed by a panel of experienced academics, industrialists, knowledge exchange professionals, and social scientists who will select the best applications to go forward to the competition final. Shortlisted applicants will then be interviewed by the Finalists Panel.

Applications may be from a single eligible individual, two joint applicants, or a team where at least half the members of the team meet the eligibility requirements (see below for details).

The Categories

For 2019, there are four award categories for the Innovator of the Year competition:

- **Commercial Impact** will recognise researchers who have driven impact from their research in a business context. This could include scientists who have led the establishment of spin-out companies, contributed to collaborative working with business or whose research has led to licensing deals or the development of new products, tools and technologies. This category should include those who have a promising commercial innovation that could really be transformative but are not necessarily profitable yet, as well as those who have actually generated a financial return.
- **Social Impact** will recognise researchers who have used the outcomes of their research to make (or have the potential to make) a positive impact on society. The range of impacts considered in this category could be very broad and include impact of the biosciences on public policy, public health, social enterprise, third sector organisations or the world in which we live.
- **Early Career Impact** will recognise early career researchers who have driven the impact of their research, either in a commercial, social or international context in the

6 years beyond their PhD or prior to securing a permanent research positions (please see **Annex 1** for full eligibility details).

- **International Impact** will recognise those researchers who have driven the impact of their research, either commercial or social, in an international context by working with international partners such as companies, charities or foreign policy makers or governments. This category will be specifically relevant to researchers who have strived to drive the impact of their research addressing overseas development aid goals.

The **BBSRC Innovator of the Year** will then be selected from the category winners. Applicants are able to suggest the category they wish to enter their application to but should note that the final decision to assign an application to the most appropriate category rests with the BBSRC.

The Awards

An award of £10,000 will be made directly to the winner of each category, with the Innovator of the Year receiving a further £10,000. Each award is to be spent, at the winner's discretion, to support their research, training or other activities promoting economic or social impact, providing it falls within BBSRC's sphere of interest. For team winners, the award money will be split equally among the applicants. All finalists will be invited to an event in London in **May 2019 (TBC)**, where the awards will be presented and the **BBSRC Innovator of the Year** will be announced, with national publicity and recognition for the scientist(s) and their research.

Eligibility

The competition is open to all researchers funded by BBSRC within the past six years, including PhD students and postdoctoral researchers funded by the BBSRC through Studentships, Fellowships, or research grants; Principal Investigators or Co-Investigators on grants funded by BBSRC; holders of any BBSRC-funded Fellowship; and researchers in Institutes receiving strategic funding from BBSRC.

Please see **Annex 1** for full details.

Assessment Criteria

The Innovator of the Year competition considers both the commitment and initiative of the applicant in exploring the potential for impact from their research, and the subsequent scale of that impact, either potential or realised.

In particular, the Panel will be looking for evidence of:

- how the applicant has identified an opportunity to make an impact from their research;
- how the applicant has taken appropriate steps to realise the impact, including overcoming any specific challenges along the way;
- the scale of the impact (actual and/or potential), including who has or will benefit.

Applications

Applications should be completed online using the link provided. Please see **Annex 2** for guidance on how to apply and fill out each section.

Team entries should indicate the lead applicant of the group and, as far as possible, specify the contributions of each member.

Finalists

Shortlisted applicants will be asked to prepare a presentation for an interview prior to the award ceremony in May 2019. Shortlisted applicants will also be asked to provide the following additional documents:

1. a Curriculum Vitae for the lead applicant(s) (*maximum 2 pages*);
2. a letter from the Head of Department, Head of the Technology Transfer Office, or relevant equivalent in support of the application and innovation (*up to 1 side of A4*).

Annex 1: Eligibility

The competition is open to all researchers funded by BBSRC within the past six years, including:

- PhD students and postdoctoral researchers funded by the BBSRC through Studentships, Fellowships or research grants;
- Principal Investigators or Co-Investigators on a grant funded by BBSRC;
- holders of any BBSRC-funded Fellowship;
- researchers in BBSRC Strategically Funded Institutes directly employed through a Institute Strategic Programme Grant, Core Strategic Programme Grant, Core Capability Grant.

The six years will be counted from the Funding End Date of the BBSRC research grant/awards to the deadline for applications (30 January 2019). In the case of PhD students or active post-doctoral researchers, the six years timeframe starts from the date of the PhD *viva voce*. In counting only active years of research, BBSRC thereby makes allowances for periods of maternity/paternity leave or career breaks.

For the **Early Career Impact**, an early career researcher is defined as a PhD student or post-doctoral researcher (including post-doctoral fellows) with no more than 6 years full time postdoctoral research experience since their PhD. In addition, applicants should not have secured a permanent, tenure-track academic research position or industrial equivalent prior to applying. Active postdoctoral research experience is defined as the period during which applicants have been engaged in paid research after the completion of their PhD studies. Note that this period of active research refers to years at 100% FTE, so someone who has only worked part time or taken a career break would be allowed more than 6 years since their PhD on a pro-rata basis (e.g. up to 12 years at 50%).

For **joint entries**, both applicants should be eligible. For **team entries**, at least half of the 'team' should meet the eligibility criteria described above. Where there are non-eligible individuals who have played a significant part in delivering impact from the research, their role in assisting the eligible applicant(s) should be made clear in the application.

For clarity, BBSRC's Strategically Funded Institutes are:

- The Babraham Institute
- The Earlham Institute
- IBERS
- The John Innes Centre
- The Pirbright Institute
- The Quadram Institute
- The Roslin Institute
- Rothamsted Research

Annex 2: How to fill in the application form

The application form is hosted on web software provided by KeySurvey, and applicants need to first create a temporary username and password to ensure secure access to the form. *Please do not use a password you use for other personal accounts.* All information is saved on your unique form once the “Forward” or “Back” buttons are clicked, and can be accessed again at any time until the deadline.

To access an in-progress application, use the link on the Innovator web page, click through (do not re-register) and then sign in with your username and password.

Section 1

- The Title of your application should be a clear, descriptive, and of no more than 15 words. It should focus on the impact rather than the research, and may be made public.
- Select the most appropriate category for your application (final decision will rest with the expert panel).
- Select whether this is an Individual, Joint or Team application; selection will determine which of the following fields are available to be completed. The two joint applicants are assumed to be co-equal, but one must still be counted as the lead applicant.

Section 2

- For Individual Application - fill in the details of the lead applicant to the award, including Organisation, Department, Position and Email Address.
- For Joint Application - fill in the details of both joint applicants, including Organisation, Department, Position and Email Address for each.
- For Team Application – fill in the details of the lead applicant to the award, including Organisation, Department, Position and Email Address then fill in the details including the Name(s) and Organisation(s) of any Associated Team Members.
- Only include details of any other non-academic partner(s) if applicable.
- Must include details of BBSRC funding that this application is connected to;

including the grant reference number (where applicable), the title of the award, and the amount awarded. For PhD students, please include the studentship reference if possible.

Section 3

- The summary should briefly (no more than 100 words) describe the impact in a way that could be made public (i.e. no sensitive information or over-technical terminology).
- The remaining sections should emphasise the applicant's personal role in recognising the potential for impact and what they did to progress their research outputs towards impact. You may include a very brief summary of your research only in the context of your impact.
- This section should also explain how the impact is connected to BBSRC investments, the IP status (if any), and, where relevant, the involvement of other individuals and/or agencies in the process.
- It is important to articulate any challenges that you might have encountered in making progress towards impact, and how such challenges were or will be addressed.
- You should provide as much quantifiable evidence as possible about the current and likely future impact of the innovation within the targeted area/sector, including who might benefit from the impact of the innovation and where the beneficiaries may be (particularly in the case of International Impact).

Diversity Information

- BBSRC recognises that diverse ideas, experiences, backgrounds and perspectives are fundamental to successful science and innovation, and we are committed to ensuring that our funding mechanisms and processes do not present any potential barriers and bias to success. In order to achieve this we collect some personal data, which will be kept, used, and deleted in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR) (see **Annex 3**).
- This information will not be used in the application process, but is important for our monitoring and assurance processes. The data is collected for the Lead applicant at the time of submission, for joint and team applications, an individual Diversity survey will be forwarded to each member. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

BBSRC is part of **UK Research and Innovation**, which is committed to complying with the **General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR)**. It is committed to fostering a culture of transparency and accountability by demonstrating compliance with the principles set out in the Regulation. The UK Research and Innovation Privacy Notice (<https://bbsrc.ukri.org/about/policies-standards/privacy/>) lets you know what happens to any personal data that you give us, and also links to our Data Protection Policy.

BBSRC will use personal information provided on the application and final report forms for purposes associated with application and award processes. Personal data may be used in relation to:

- the registration of your application;
- storage of your data on BBSRC internal systems;
- the operation of application processing and management information systems;
- the acquisition of UK and/or international panel member comments on proposals and reports;
- the preparation of material for use by assessment panels;
- payments made to your Higher Education Institution or Research Organisation;
- statistical analysis in relation to the evaluation of the quality of the awards;
- BBSRC policy and strategy studies;
- development of BBSRC impact case studies.

If your application progresses to the Final and/or is successful certain information will be published/disclosed in the public domain to maintain public accountability; this could include:

- the title of your application/award;
- your name;
- the institution at which you are studying or working;
- the dates associated with your award;
- the type of award;
- the funding provided to you or the institution;
- a description of your research or impact as described in the summary section of the application
- publicity associated with the award event.

You have a statutory right of access (certain exemptions apply) to personal data about yourself under GDPR. If you wish to apply for access to your personal data held by BBSRC, please contact the BBSRC Data Protection Officer (dataprotectionenquiries@bbsrc.ukri.org).

Contact

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