sLoLa call webinar

15 April 2019: Start time: 1130
02 May 2019: Start time: 1100
Before we get started

- Please make sure your computer **speakers** are turned **ON**

- Please make sure your computer **microphone** is switched **OFF** to avoid audio feedback

- The Q&A Window Button can be found by clicking on the black circle with three dots:

- You may need to expand the Q&A window by clicking on the “>”:
Questions

• Please ask questions in the ‘Q & A’ window throughout the webinar. We will respond in the final Q&A session

• Responses to questions that we unable to answer during the webinar will be provided asap afterwards

• Please keep questions with more than one part within the same instant message; if sent as separate messages they will not appear together in the Q&A window

• Specific questions about the details of individual proposals should be e-mailed directly to bbsrc.lolagrants@bbsrc.ukri.org

• Questions about the Je-S system should be e-mailed directly to JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org
Welcome and Introductions

- Jef Grainger, Jo O’Leary, Peter Burlinson, Elly Tyacke and Richard Brown, Michal Mazurkiewicz-Soldek

- Single point of contact
  bbsrc.lolagrants@bbsrc.ukri.org

- Slides will be made available online post-webinar
Purpose of the webinar

- Provide an overview of the 2019-20 sLoLa call
- Highlight key expectations
- Ensure applications are appropriately targeted
Agenda

- Background
- Scope of the call
- Fit to the sLoLa scheme and eligibility
- Application and assessment process
- Q&A
BBSRC Forward Look for UK Bioscience

Advancing the frontiers of bioscience discovery

- Understanding the rules of life
- Transformative technologies

Tackling strategic challenges

- Bioscience for sustainable agriculture and food
- Bioscience for renewable resources and clean growth
- Bioscience for an integrated understanding of health

Building strong foundations

- People and talent
- Infrastructure
- Collaboration, partnerships and KE
Advancing the frontiers of bioscience discovery

Understanding the rules of life

Promoting creative, curiosity-driven frontier bioscience to address fundamental questions in biology

Transformative Technologies

Developing the tools, technologies and approaches that enable researchers to push the boundaries of scientific discovery and stimulate innovation
Frontier bioscience: some key indicators

- A significant fundamental bioscience question/challenge
- Potential to deliver a step change in understanding
- Often inter/multidisciplinary
- Likely to require innovative approaches and methods, and advanced technologies
- Reach of the knowledge outputs—broad importance to bioscience beyond immediate field
The 2019-20 sLoLa Call

• This will be a competitive call
  – Our budget is limited (3-5 projects)

• The process is designed to identify and prioritise the most robust proposals of the highest quality at each stage
  – Conduct peer review effectively and efficiently
  – Reviewer, committee member and BBSRC office resources

• We are looking for world leading research
  – Manage time and effort for applicants
Strategic Approach

• BBSRC’s broader portfolio will be considered in making decisions
  – Overlaps with existing large investments
  – Proposals should be distinctive and outline how they fit within/ enhance UK bioscience

• Proposals must be within our remit

• Proposals may have relevance to ‘Responsive Mode’ priorities but MUST be focused primarily on important fundamental science advancement
Assessment criteria

- Research excellence
- Importance and transformative potential
- Added value of funding via sLoLa grant
- Ability to deliver and leadership quality
- Management strategy
- Resources
What makes a sLola a sLola?

• This is a common issue
• The sLoLa mechanism supports complex, integrated programs of research

• Must demonstrate that the work requires a single larger scale award to be carried out
  – Not a collection of projects that could be undertaken separately or through successive smaller awards
  – Clear synergy and interdependency between work packages
  – Complementarity of the research team and approaches being used
  – Full justification for all elements of the programme
Eligibility

• Standard BBSRC criteria apply

• Less prescriptive compared to previous calls: requirement for a specific number of prior BBSRC grants removed

• BUT we still expect significant ‘critical mass’ from the applicants and evidence of ‘ability to deliver’ the sLoLa

• Changes reflect feedback and also the desire to help address E&I issues

• Encourage Early Career Researcher involvement, where they are adding value and with appropriate support
Impact can be varied

- Important to fully address appropriate routes
- Is about more than just IP, products and spin outs
Application process

Call registration is mandatory
Full information is on the call webpage

Call registration
• Deadline 14 May 2019 (Mandatory)
• Submit via keysurvey

Outlines
• Deadline 30 July 2019
• Submit via JeS

Full proposals
• Deadline 23 January 2020, 4pm (TBC)
• Submit via JeS
Assessment process

Details of what will be assessed at each stage are in the call guidance document.

- **Call registration**
  - BBSRC Office
  - Feedback on fit to sLoLa call requirements

- **Outlines**
  - Strategic LoLa Committee (SLC)
  - Shortlisted proposals invited to full stage

- **Full proposals**
  - Responsive Mode Committees
  - Invitation to interview by SLC if highly rated
Call registration

- We expect Research Organisations to prioritise outlines before submitting them to BBSRC

- We are using the call registration to:
  - Ensure all potential outlines are appropriate to the call
  - Provide an early indication of the level of demand overall and from individual Research Organisations
  - Encourage institutional conversations/ prioritisation at an early stage

- We do not recommend double digit call registrations, even from larger HEIs

- There is scope to adjust objectives/ teams after registering, provided the overall focus is broadly the same
Call registration

- We aim to confirm receipt of each registration within three working days. Feedback ~ seven working days, particularly if registering close to the deadline.

- If we are overwhelmed by demand, we will ask Research Organisations to further prioritise (this will occur after the registration deadline).

- We will not be able to give detailed feedback from the call registration or provide an indication of competitiveness of proposals.

- We aim to filter out proposals that are non-responsive to the call or ineligible.

- Please read the call guidance carefully and ensure all registrations are appropriate.
FAQ: Outlines

• How many can an institution submit?

• Be realistic. This is going to be a competitive call funding at most ~ 5 awards.

• Research organisations should bear in mind the level of competition nationally

• We expect a small number of submissions that genuinely meet all the assessment criteria to an excellent/exceptional level

• Investigators can be involved in more than one proposal
FAQ: Resubmission of 2018-2019 Outlines

• This will be a highly competitive call again

• Substantive changes would be expected to the work programme, ‘new research’

• Further justification may be requested by BBSRC for proposals that are very similar to 2018-19 outlines

• Please email the sLoLa team if you have questions
FAQ: Principal Investigators with 2018-19 sLoLa applications currently under review

- Principal Investigators will full stage applications being assessed at 19RM1 for the 2018-19 call can register and submit an outline
  - It must not be a resubmission

- These 2019-20 proposals cannot proceed to the outline panel if the 2018-19 application is awarded
  - As a sLoLa grant holder you would become ineligible
Other guidance

- Read the documents and formal eligibility requirements carefully
- Do not submit speculative/ premature proposals
- Address all aspects of the assessment criteria and fully address the call scope
- Ensure you communicate your proposal clearly, for both subject specialists and more general scientific audience
- Collaborative teams need to be able to demonstrate full synergy and ability to work together effectively
- If in doubt, please contact us for advice
Thank you

We hope you found the webinar useful