

TRDF: Transformative Research Technologies

Guidance notes

Application deadline

17 September 2019, 4pm

Summary

Novel technologies continue to revolutionise life sciences research. The 2019 TRDF call aims to pump prime **the next generation of cutting-edge enabling research technologies** with the potential for **transformative impact in life sciences research (both biological and biomedical)**. It will support applications for early stage technology development and research into the development of novel techniques and technologies based on new advances in fundamental engineering, physical and life sciences that have the potential to enable transformative step changes in research capability. Projects may have relevance to core bioscience and/or **Technology Touching Life (TTL)**, a cross-Council initiative to champion research at the interface between the scientific remit of UKRI-BBSRC, UKRI-EPSC and UKRI-MRC.

A fast-track peer review process will operate to enable researchers to respond rapidly to emerging challenges and opportunities.

The call has an indicative **total budget of up to £3M**, subject to the quality of the applications received. The budget includes **significant co-funding from UKRI-EPSC and UKRI-MRC** to encourage transformative technology development across a broad range of disciplines and to enable interdisciplinary collaborative working.

Applications should be between **6 and 18 months duration** and are not expected to exceed **£150K (£187K 100% FEC)**.

Further information is available in the FAQs (see downloads) and the 2019 TRDF call webpage. For any enquiries please see below for contact details.

Please note: we anticipate that the 2019 TRDF call may receive a high level of interest. Prospective applicants are invited to consider carefully whether their application is within the remit and scope of the call, and should clearly articulate how the proposed project addresses the scope of the call. If in doubt, applicants are strongly advised to contact the office to discuss their proposed project.

Eligibility

Standard eligibility criteria, as set out in the [UKRI-BBSRC Grants Guide](#) Section 3, apply. Institutions and researchers normally eligible for UKRI-BBSRC funding include:

- HEIs
- Strategically funded institutes
- Eligible Independent Research Organisations (IROs)

Applications from organisations and/or individuals that are not eligible will be rejected without reference to peer review.

Further information is available in the [UKRI eligibility guidance](#).

For queries about eligibility, please contact us before submitting your application.

Research technical professionals

UKRI-BBSRC recognises the value of technical expertise to the UK research workforce. The potential for staff development and training (including post-docs, technical and support staff) will be assessed by the panel. UKRI-BBSRC particularly supports recognition of the contributions of research technicians and technology and skills specialists, and encourages applicants to cost them appropriately on applications. Please refer to the UK Research and Innovation statement of expectations for technology/skills specialists and see our page: [Research technicians and technology and skills specialists](#).

How to apply

Applications must be submitted using the Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) system by **16:00 on 17 September 2019. This deadline is system generated and applications cannot be accepted after this time.**

Applicants should follow the options from the drop-down menus:

- **Log into** the Joint Electronic System ([Je-S](#))
- Select **New document**
- Select **Council**: UKRI-BBSRC
- Select **Document Type**: Standard Proposal
- Select **Scheme**: Standard
- Select **Call/Type/Mode**: 2019 Tools and Resources Development Fund
- Select 'Create Document'

Applications involving two or more Research Organisations should be **submitted via a single, shared Je-S form**.

We advise applicants to read the [UKRI-BBSRC Grants Guide](#) and the [UKRI grant terms and conditions](#) before completing their application.

General information

- Standard guidelines for research grant applications apply, as described in the [UKRI-BBSRC grants guide](#) and the [Je-S Helptext pages](#).
- Standard font (size: 11 point - we recommend the use of Arial, Helvetica or Verdana typeface) and margin sizes (not less than 2 cm) must be used for all forms and CVs (excluding text on diagrams and the use of mathematical symbols). A minimum of single line spacing and standard character spacing must be used. Applications that do not adhere to these guidelines may be withdrawn from consideration.
- We recommend that where a document contains any non-standard fonts (scientific notation, diagrams, etc.), the document is converted to PDF prior to attaching it to the proposal.
- The New Investigator, Industrial Partnership Award and LINK schemes do not apply to this call for proposals. First time Principal Investigators (PIs) should note that, if successful, being the PI on a grant which includes funding for Postdoctoral Research Assistant (PDRA) staff support costs will subsequently exclude them from being a New Investigator in Responsive Mode.

- PhD students should not be included on applications to the TRDF call.

Applicants are strongly advised to contact us if they are unsure whether their application would fit the scope of the call.

UKRI-BBSRC reserves the right to reject applications, without reference to peer review, which are deemed to fall outside the remit and scope (including the financial scope) of this call. If required, expert advice from at least two members of the panel will be sought regarding fit to scope, noting that this will not be an assessment of the quality of the proposal.

The 2019 TRDF call has an indicative budget as detailed in the call information. We encourage research organisations to consider the scope and eligibility of potential applications to the call, and prioritise appropriately, prior to submission. We do not seek to implement an institutional cap for proposals but will take such measures if required to moderate demand to a manageable level.

Application procedure

Required documents

Your application must include:

Document	Max. page length (A4)	Guidance
Case for support (including Track Record)	8 pages	See below.
Data Management Plan	1 page	Should provide information relating to data sharing and software management. Please refer to the UKRI-BBSRC website for our Data Sharing Policy . We recommend consulting the Software Sustainability Institute website for guidance on software management .
Pathways to Impact	2 pages	Must be specific to the project and contain timelines, milestones and deliverables. Further information is available on https://www.ukri.org/innovation/excellence-with-impact/ .
Justification of Resources	2 pages	See below.
Diagrammatic Work Plan	1 page	A diagrammatic workplan for the proposed project, typically in the form of a Gantt chart, outlining the key steps to be taken and milestones to be reached to realise the project outcomes as described in the Case for Support. It must not be used to extend the Case for Support.

CVs	2 pages each	Required for all named applicants and named research staff only. CVs for key technical staff can be included where appropriate although they are not mandatory. All CVs should be collated and uploaded as a single pdf.
Proposal cover letter	Variable	Applicants' declarations of interest will also need to be added to the Proposal Cover Letter. Please refer to the UKRI website for further guidance.

Case for Support, including Track Record (maximum of 8 sides of A4)

The Case for Support should be a self-contained description of the proposed work with relevant background, and should not depend on additional information. Applicants must not include URLs to web resources in order to extend their Case for Support. Panel members will base their assessment only on the written information contained within the form. UKRI-BBSRC reserves the right to withdraw proposals that contain links to additional information extending the Case for Support.

It should include the following:

- Previous research track record of all applicants, including:
 - A summary of the results and conclusions of your recent work relevant to the proposed project, referencing both UKRI-BBSRC funded and non-UKRI-BBSRC funded work. Details of past collaborative work with industry and/or with other beneficiaries should be given.
 - Indication of where previous work has had an impact, including contributions to the UK's economic competitiveness or to improving the quality of life.
 - Specific expertise available at the host organisation and any proposed partner organisations.
 - Proposed role of all involved applicants and collaborators
- Descriptions of the work proposed in the application, including the proposed project, approaches and methods.
- Clear articulation of how the proposed project addresses the scope of the call.

References should be included in the page limit and appear in a list at the end of the Case for Support and be linked to relevant text. Within the list of references, URL links to relevant publications or online resources are permissible.

Justification of Resources (maximum of 2 sides of A4)

All resources requested (directly incurred, directly allocated, staff costs, PI and Co-I time) must be fully justified. Please list values requested alongside the justification.

Items that would ordinarily be found in a department, for example non-specialist computers, should include justification both for why they are required for the project and why they cannot be provided from the research organisation's own resources (including funding from indirect costs from grants).

Other documents (optional)

Document	Guidance
Letters of support	Only directly relevant Letters of Support should be submitted. Please ensure that all letters of support are on headed paper, and that they are signed and dated within 6 months of the date of submission of the proposal.
Facility form	If facility access is being requested, specifically for Earlham Institute and ARCHER, a technical assessment form is required. Failure to include the required forms will result in withdrawal of the proposal. Contact us for details on how to incorporate requests for ARCHER time within your proposal.
Equipment quotations	Optional, but required in some instances.

UKRI-BBSRC reserves the right to reject applications that do not include the required attachments or include attachments not specified in this guidance.

Post award

- UKRI-BBSRC will decide the final funding value of each grant.
- A sample of successful proposals may be audited.
- Grants will be awarded under UKRI Standard Grant Terms and Conditions.

Contact

Please provide as much information as possible in your email to ensure a rapid response.

For call-specific queries, please contact: development.fund@bbsrc.ac.uk

For Je-S system queries, please contact:

- Email: JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org
- Tel: +44 (0) 1793 44 4164