



## BBSRC Excellence with Impact Competition

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Overview

#### 1.1 What is the Excellence with Impact Competition?

BBSRC's Excellence with Impact (EwI) competition aims to recognise Research Organisations (ROs<sup>1</sup>) and all BBSRC strategically funded institutes<sup>2</sup> that can demonstrate implementation of ambitious visions to best deliver impact. BBSRC expects that the implementation of an RO's EwI vision will also incorporate an institution-wide culture change to maximise impact during the period of the competition.

#### 1.2 What does the BBSRC aim to achieve through Excellence with Impact Competition?

Through this competition BBSRC aims to stimulate and support ROs in their endeavours to embed a culture that maximises impact, and ROs' agenda to deliver impact from their research. It is intended that the competition will also stimulate and enhance relationships between BBSRC and participating ROs and aid BBSRC's efforts to showcase to the achievements of ROs that are ensuring impact arises from their excellent research. For further details please refer to the Call Text.

#### 1.3 Why is BBSRC introducing this competition?

EwI competition is one way for BBSRC to recognise the many different people and skills involved in bringing impact to light. EwI aims to enhance and uncover successful approaches to innovation and impact in the biosciences and reward exemplar institutions.

#### 1.4 How does the current Excellence with Impact competition differ from the previous competition?

The first Excellence with Impact (EwI 2011) competition was open to *university departments*, ran from 1 December 2008 to 1 December 2010 and had awards in two categories – Greatest Culture Change and Greatest Delivery of Impact.

The current competition builds on the success of the first competition but is a distinct and *more ambitious* programme. The current competition aims to engender culture change

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<sup>1</sup> whose total value of BBSRC grants live on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 exceeded £5M

<sup>2</sup> henceforth referred to as ROs

and incentivise impact generation on an *institution-wide* scale. It is RO-led, and unlike Ewl 2011, the current Ewl competition is open to all BBSRC strategically-funded institutes.

Also, the focus of the current competition is the development by ROs of a range of actions aimed to deliver/maximise impact arising from excellent bioscience research (including those relevant to Pathways to Impact on funded BBSRC grants).

### **1.5 What is BBSRC's definition of Impact?**

BBSRC is committed to identifying, understanding, enabling and publicising the impact of bioscience research in the UK and more widely as part of its support to the UK bioscience community. BBSRC takes the view that the impact of research is very broad, and encompasses economic, social and wider impact. Impact can be achieved by all excellent research in some time frame, and awareness and understanding of impact is the responsibility of all those involved in bioscience research in the UK, whether as researchers, funders, policy makers or research users. BBSRC's Impact Policy: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Policies/bbsrc-impact-policy.pdf>

## **Awards**

### **2.1 What awards are available in the Excellence with Impact Competition?**

There will be an award of £0.5M for the RO that best demonstrates the delivery of impact in its widest sense over the period of the competition. There will be a further £0.5M available to be awarded at judges' discretion to highly commended runners up. The awards will be presented at a prestigious event in spring 2016, with national publicity for the winning departments.

## **Who can enter?**

### **3.1 Is my Research Organisation eligible to enter?**

The competition is open to ROs whose total value of BBSRC grants live on 1 April 2012 exceeded £5M and all BBSRC strategically-funded institutes. Commercial organisations are not eligible to take part in this competition

### **3.2 Can a Research Organisation submit multiple applications?**

No, each eligible institution e.g. RO or BBSRC strategically-funded institute can submit only one entry.

### **3.3 Who should apply to Ewl on behalf of the RO?**

A single entry for the competition must be submitted on behalf of the RO by the head of department/school/faculty or equivalent, and include contact details of other partner departments.

As BBSRC will be accepting only one application per RO, entrants need to ensure activities are well coordinated prior to submitting their entries.

### **3.4 Can I enter as an individual department?**

No, a stand-alone bid from a 'department' would not be encouraged, as entries to this competition are targeted at an institutional level. If yours is the only department in the RO in receipt of BBSRC funds, then you will need to demonstrate why seeking genuine

cross-institution collaboration is not possible / advantageous for maximising impact of BBSRC-funded research, and how a department based Vision for maximising impact is more significant than a shared Vision.

### **3.5 Can a consortium spanning different Research Organisations apply?**

No, entries involving consortia of ROs or of departments from different ROs are not eligible for this competition.

### **3.6 How do I submit my application?**

There is a two-part application process:

Part 1: Initially ROs are invited to submit an entry using the **Expression of Interest** form [EI] via email to [impact.awards@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:impact.awards@bbsrc.ac.uk) by **31 January 2013**. The form should be accompanied by a letter of support from the Vice-chancellor of the RO, or Institute Director that endorses the entry and confirms a cross-institution commitment to the aims of the competition, and details of any institutional support for the competition.

Part 2: Subsequently, following consultation and support from BBSRC, ROs will submit a refined Excellence with Impact Vision form [EwI Vision] which will include comprehensive details of the RO's Vision and proposed strategy to maximise the social and economic impact of their bioscience research, alongside details of their current portfolio of bioscience research, associated social and economic impacts and major outcomes to date via email to [impact.awards@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:impact.awards@bbsrc.ac.uk) by **31 May 2013**. It is anticipated that there will be a period of some consultation and support from BBSRC, to aid ROs in their development and submission of a refined Excellence with Impact Vision form [EwI Vision] by **31 May 2013**.

To assist participating ROs, BBSRC will make available by **28 February 2013** relevant information on areas of significant BBSRC investment (e.g. sLoLas/Centres, funding for research and training, etc), and research relevant to BBSRC strategic priorities.

Detailed guidance on how to apply and relevant forms can be downloaded from [www.bbsrc.ac.uk/excellence](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/excellence).

## **Assessment**

### **4.1 How will entries be assessed?**

Entries will be assessed against the published criteria by a panel of experts that will include experienced academics, industrialists, technology transfer/KEC professionals and social scientists. Details of the Final Report form and assessment will be made available to EwI institutions in a timely manner.

### **4.2 How do I know if examples in my entry originated from BBSRC funded research?**

If you are unsure if a particular example/case study is connected to BBSRC supported research or capability please contact [impact.awards@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:impact.awards@bbsrc.ac.uk).

## **Competition process and timelines**

### **5.1 Is there a schedule for activities and submission deadlines for the competition?**

Activities and deadlines:

The deadlines for the two-part application process are:

1. Expression of Interest form: submitted no later than **31 January 2013**.
2. Excellence with Impact Vision: submitted no later than **31 May 2013**.

Review and reporting activities:

3. Excellence with Impact Mid-term Review: submitted no later than **1 December 2014 (tbc)**.
4. Excellence with Impact Final Report: submitted no later than **1 December 2015 (tbc)**.

Additional engagement:

- Attendance at Ewl networking event (am) **20 March 2013**.
- Attendance at Fostering Innovation award event (pm) **20 March 2013**.
- BBSRC site visit late summer **2013 (tbc)**.
- BBSRC site visit late summer **2014 (tbc)**.
- BBSRC/Judges site visit late summer/autumn **2015 (tbc)**.

### **5.2 What happens after submission of the Excellence with Impact Vision form?**

BBSRC will liaise with institutions and assign BBSRC staff to each Ewl institution. BBSRC staff will consult with Ewl institutions and arrange dates for the first BBSRC site visit in Summer 2013. BBSRC staff visits will provide a platform to share with the Ewl institutions details of the Ewl competition, and BBSRC's funding and training opportunities, as well as a mechanism for Ewl institutions to share successes, concerns and pose questions relevant to Ewl.

### **5.3 What is the Fostering Innovation event and what is expected of Ewl participants at the Fostering Innovation event?**

BBSRC's Fostering Innovation event will include a networking session, and will culminate with the announcement of winners of Innovator of the Year and Activating Impact competition. Ewl participants will network with guests and share the limelight with Innovator of the Year and Activating Impact award winners.

Two representatives from each RO will attend the following events on 20 March 2013

- a Ewl-participants networking event (late morning and exclusive to Ewl institutions), and
- the Fostering Innovation 2013 event (evening) – where Ewl participants will share publicity alongside Innovator of the Year and Activating Impact competition finalists.

This will be an opportunity for Ewl institutions to network with guests and talk about the competition and their institutions' ambitions and commitment to Ewl. BBSRC will provide support and briefing to institutions so that they are clear on their role at the Fostering Innovation 2013 event.

### **5.4 Are BBSRC staff visits part of the assessment process?**

No, BBSRC staff visits that do not involve members of the Ewl evaluation panel are not part of the assessment for the competition. The primary purpose of the BBSRC staff visits is to update Ewl institutions about BBSRC's current funding opportunities, research strategy and policy. It is an opportunity for BBSRC and ROs to share best practice and support, and possibly create, opportunities to enhance impact related to BBSRC-funded research.

#### **5.5 How often do Ewl institutions have to report to the BBSRC?**

Apart from the two-part entry form, institutions will submit a brief mid-term review (due 1 December 2014; tbc). It is anticipated that participating ROs will liaise with BBSRC and submit a brief mid-term review that charts progress of the ROs' Ewl ambitions and includes examples of significant achievements, or case studies that may be completed/are being developed.

ROs will submit a comprehensive Final Report to demonstrate how they have progressed in the delivery of their Vision (due 1 December 2015; tbc). Exact details will be confirmed and made available to Ewl participants well in advance of the relevant deadlines.

#### **5.6 What else would we need to do with the BBSRC?**

Two representatives from each Ewl institution will be required to attend Ewl-related networking and publicity events organised by BBSRC. Each institution agrees to host at least two BBSRC site visits relevant to Ewl competition and a site visit by representatives of the Ewl competition evaluation panel. Further details are provided in Ewl Terms and Conditions.

#### **5.7 What would we need to do within our institution?**

It is expected that each institution will share best practice and create an environment that stimulates the pursuit of impact alongside excellent research as espoused in the Ewl Call Text.

### **Post award and engagement**

#### **6.1 What will happen after the competition?**

After the competition, BBSRC will engage with entrants to promote best-practice. BBSRC will also publicise the subsequent achievements of the Ewl participants and award winner and runners up. Details as outlined in terms and conditions which can be downloaded at [www.bbsrc.ac.uk/excellence](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/excellence).