

BBSRC DOCTORAL TRAINING PARTNERSHIPS: ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications to the second call for BBSRC Doctoral Training Partnerships will be assessed competitively. BBSRC intends to award a balanced portfolio of Partnerships which can provide excellence of training and an overall balance between support for its priority research areas and 'general advancement of knowledge'. It is anticipated that up to 15 Doctoral Training Partnerships will be established.

In making its decisions, the Assessment Panel will evaluate the information provided by applicants as part of their DTP proposal, and will also draw on information provided by BBSRC on the Partnerships portfolio of research grant funding and studentship funding. An analysis of the studentship project details which have been returned to BBSRC through the Je-S Student Details Portal (SDP) will also be presented.

The detailed assessment criteria are described in the following table:

Number	Criterion	Weighting (%)
1.	<p>Excellence of research and alignment of PhD training to BBSRC's remit and priority research areas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of excellent research, including competitively-won research funding relevant to BBSRC's remit and priority research areas, • Evidence of previous use of BBSRC funding in support of its priority research areas, • Extent to which the Partnership commits to investing in bioscience research training in BBSRC's remit e.g. through leveraging alternative funding sources. • Extent to which the Partnership explores opportunities to identify vulnerable capabilities and strategically important and vulnerable areas of bioscience research. 	40
2.	<p>Excellence of the PhD training programme and training environment across the institutions involved in the Partnership, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size and composition of the 'critical mass' of active bioscience researchers, • Quality of research training environment (staff, infrastructure and facilities etc.), including (where appropriate) multi- and/or inter-disciplinary provision, • Policy for training in the core bioscience skills, • Quality and breadth of professional development training available to students, as outlined in the Vitae Researcher Development Framework, • Quality of the proposed Professional Internships for PhD Students programme, • Arrangements for establishing and maintaining cohorts of students across the Partnership. 	30
3.	<p>Quality of management of the training programme, supervision of the students, and governance of the Partnership including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of Governance arrangements for the management of the Partnership, • Policy for the strategic targeting of DTP Training Grant funding for PhD projects in BBSRC's remit and priority research areas, • Policy for student recruitment, induction, monitoring and submission rates, • Policy for supervisor selection and training and arrangements for developing 	30

	<p>supervision skills for academic and postdoctoral staff,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrangements for ensuring best practice is shared among the Partners and with other DTPs,• Arrangements for ensuring BBSRC gets value for money in the delivery of PhD training,• Arrangements for returning accurate and timely data to BBSRC on studentships (i.e. <i>via</i> Je-S Student Details Portal), and for capturing, and reporting, on the outputs and impacts of PhD training across the Partnership.	
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In addition, DTP proposals will be rejected on the following grounds:

- The combined PhD submission rate for students in the institutions involved (Research Council and non-Research Council funded) have fallen below 70% in any of the three academic years: 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10.