BBSRC FLIP Flexible Interchange Programme

BBSRC Flexible Interchange Partnership (FLIP)

Frequently Asked Questions – UPDATED 28 JANUARY 2013

Overview

1.1 What is a FLIP?

FLIP awards will support the genuine movement of people from one environment to a different one leading to the exchange of knowledge / technology / skills for the purpose of developing bioscience research / researchers and addressing BBSRC's strategic priorities.

1.2 Why is BBSRC introducing this new scheme?

Following advice from its Strategy Panels, BBSRC has developed a new all-encompassing scheme to consolidate and further evolve the potentially confusing number of extant people movement, researcher development and fellowship programmes. In addition, the new programme will encourage broader participation and increased opportunities, recognising that people movement is often the best form of knowledge exchange.

1.3 What advice has BBSRC drawn on in developing the FLIP scheme?

A light-touch consultation of previously-funded recipients of BBSRC people movement awards was conducted in 2011 which suggested changes to the confusing landscape were necessary and advised which key elements of the existing programmes should be retained. Further input from BBSRC's Bioscience Skills & Careers / Bioscience for Industry Panels resulted in the new FLIP programme being developed.

1.4 What are the main types of interchange supported through FLIP in comparison with those supported through previous schemes?

FLIP allows a more flexible approach and also includes a wider range of options for people movement. FLIP will continue to support the types of interchange previously possible through its Industry Interchange Programme (IIP) and Industrial Impact Fellowship (IIF), but can now include for example discipline hopping awards and interchanges with professional services and Third Sector organisations.

1.5 In addition to FLIP, what other funding does BBSRC provide to support industrial interchanges?

BBSRC will continue to support Royal Society Industry Fellowships and Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP, led by Technology Strategy Board).

Funding

2.1 How many FLIPs does BBSRC expect to support?

It is currently envisaged that in the region of ten awards will be made in the first year and building to 20 p.a. over subsequent years.

Who can apply?

3.1 Can any academic apply?

Each FLIP proposal will have only one academic applicant, and the FLIP proposal must be connected to an awarded BBSRC research grant. The applicant for a FLIP award must satisfy the standard BBSRC eligibility criteria as laid out in the BBSRC Grants Guide (http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/grants-guide.aspx) and must be a named investigator on the awarded BBSRC research grant connected to the proposed interchange.

3.2 Can a postdoc apply?

Involvement of postdocs in developing FLIP applications and being the interchanger with support from their Principal Investigator and Head of Department is positively encouraged. However they can not be named as the applicant.

3.3 Can a FLIP be initiated by a non-academic?

Yes, again this is positively encouraged, but the academic must apply (on behalf of the partnership) and be the recipient of the FLIP award. The lead academic must always be able to demonstrate connectivity of the planned interchange to previously-funded BBSRC research.

3.4 Does a BBSRC funded studentship qualify as a connected grant?

Yes, the FLIP applicant can name a BBSRC funded studentship as the connected grant as long as they were the named project supervisor. Applicants must include the grant reference number, title and abstract in the FLIP application

3.5 Is a FLIP award a "standard" BBSRC Research Grant?

FLIP awards are subject to standard BBSRC Research Grant Terms and Conditions as laid out in the BBSRC Grants Guide (http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/grants-guide.aspx and awarded under standard Research Council Terms and Conditions (http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Guidelines/research-grants-terms-conditions.pdf) with the following addition:

- Interchangers and organisations that are not eligible to apply for BBSRC funding will be able to claim limited costs associated with the interchange.

The payment of such funds will be made in the first instance to the applicant's organisation and it is the responsibility of both the applicant and the partner to agree terms and conditions for management of the interchange and the reimbursement of costs where appropriate.

Estates and indirect costs cannot be claimed by non-academic partners. In addition, estates costs cannot be claimed for academic interchangers spending in excess of six months in industry during the project as detailed in Section 5.42 of BBSRC Grants Guide http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Guidelines/grants_guide.pdf. No reduction should be made for shorter term absence.

The interchange activity must not have been detailed on an existing research grant and cannot be costed against a future research grant. Since a FLIP award is not directly equivalent to a standard BBSRC Research Grant, it does not confer eligibility for future BBSRC funding. In addition, a FLIP award cannot be considered towards eligibility for a Strategic Longer Larger (sLoLa) Grant application.

3.6 How do I submit my application?

Applications for the first call should be submitted by the deadline to FLIP@bbsrc.ac.uk. Application forms are available on the FLIP webpage http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/FLIP .

Assessment

4.1 How will FLIP proposals be assessed?

See the Call for Proposals, in particular attention should be paid to what "added value" any proposed interchange will offer.

4.2 What is the role of BBSRC's Committee E?

Committee E will, as one of its roles, undertake peer review of people movement schemes according to BBSRC processes and best practice, and provide recommendations for awards to BBSRC Executive.

4.3 Are there any restrictions on the areas of science in which partnerships can be supported?

Must be connected to BBSRC-funded research and related to BBSRC's objectives.

Competition process and timelines

5.1 When are the FLIP awards expected to be made?

The schedule for assessment of FLIP proposals will follow that of Committee E meetings and will be as displayed at www.bbsrc.ac.uk/FLIP.

5.2 When applying for FLIP with an industrial partner, does a collaboration agreement need to be in place?

Where the grant is associated with more than one research organisation and/or other project partners, the basis of collaboration between the organisations, including ownership of intellectual property and rights to exploitation, is expected to be set out in a formal collaboration agreement. It is the responsibility of the Research Organisation to put such an agreement in place before the FLIP award commences. The terms of collaboration agreements must not conflict with the Research Councils' terms and conditions. This agreement should be submitted to BBSRC within 3 months of the start of the award.

Post award monitoring and strategic engagement

6.1 What reports will be required and when?

A final report will be required at the end of the project and FLIP outcomes reported through the RCUK Research Outcomes System (http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/researchoutcomes/pages/ROS.aspx).