



## BBSRC Flexible Interchange Partnership (FLIP)

### Frequently Asked Questions – UPDATED 17 NOVEMBER 2014

#### 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 did BBSRC introduce this scheme?

Following advice from its Strategy Panels, BBSRC 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 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 technology transfer, professional services, learned societies, charities and other relevant organisations.

##### 1.4 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 envisaged that approximately 20 awards will be supported per annum.

#### Who can apply?

##### 3.1 Can any academic apply?

Each FLIP proposal will have at least 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 section 3 of 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.

Additional academic applicants should be included as Co-Investigators (the lead applicant will be the Principal Investigator) and must also meet the standard BBSRC eligibility criteria. Co-Investigators from different institutions may be included.

### **3.2 Is it possible to incorporate postdoctoral researchers into a FLIP application?**

BBSRC positively encourages postdoctoral researchers (as Research Co-Investigators) to initiate a FLIP so long as an academic lead applicant can be identified. Postdoctoral researchers are not eligible to apply for BBSRC funding in their own right, but may be named as the Researcher Co-Investigator on a FLIP application (please see the Grants Guide concerning Researcher Co-Investigators).

It is also possible for an individual to take forward research they were previously involved in as a postdoc or student (with permission from the original PI), as long as other eligibility requirements are met.

It is possible for postdocs from active grants to participate in a FLIP, providing there is no damage to the progress of the research of their primary grant. We would expect that the FLIP would in fact add value to the original grant, and a good application should make that case. The Committee would carefully consider the timeliness of the FLIP interchange, and the panel that awarded the original grant may also be consulted regarding the effect on the on-going research.

We allow grants extensions in a number of cases, as per the RCUK grant T&Cs (<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/RCUK-prod/assets/documents/documents/tcfecJune2014.pdf>), but FLIP would have to count as an 'exceptional circumstance'. There is also a distinction between extending the term of the post-doc and suspending the entire grant (all payments) for a set period. Depending on the duration of the proposed FLIP, it could be possible to employ another post-doc as cover for the absence (though that may not be appropriate). Please contact [FLIP@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:FLIP@bbsrc.ac.uk) for more tailored advice.

### **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 it possible to name as a FLIP interchanger someone who has not yet received their PhD?**

The interchanger(s) should be qualified to PhD level or have an equivalent experience level to undertake the proposed research. A PhD student can be considered as an interchanger for a FLIP as long as they have submitted their PhD before the start of the FLIP project.

### **3.6 Does FLIP allow two-way interchanges with more than one interchanger?**

Yes, any number of interchanges and interchangers are allowed if justified.

### **3.7 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](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.

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

Applications should be submitted by the advertised deadline via the Je-S system.

## **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](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/FLIP). Generally, it can take up to a month after the Committee meeting for recommendations to be ratified and funding announcements made.

#### **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.

### **Post award monitoring and strategic engagement**

#### **6.1 What reports will be required and when?**

FLIP outcomes can be reported throughout the duration of the award via the Researchfish System (<https://www.researchfish.com>). Upon completion of your grant, further guidance will be provided on entering FLIP outcomes.