



BBSRC Research Grants: -

The Guide

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BBSRC Research Grants: - The Guide

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This document is designed to cover all aspects of research grant funding, including eligibility and application procedures. It can be accessed on the BBSRC Website at the following address: www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/research/grants-guide.aspx.
- 1.2. The conditions set out in this document incorporate the understandings reached between the funders and employers of researchers in the UK in the “*Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers*”, which may be found at <http://www.vitae.ac.uk/policy-practice/505181/Concordat-to-Support-the-Career-Development-of-Researchers.html>. The Concordat sets out key principles for funders and employers of researchers in the UK.
- 1.3. BBSRC reserves the right to amend these regulations at any time and without prior notice. The regulations in effect at any time will be those contained in the most recent version of this guide.
- 1.4. This document should be read in conjunction with the overview of funding areas listed at: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/grants/areas.aspx>.
- 1.5. BBSRC recognises that excellence in science requires diversity and equality to promote innovation and creativity. BBSRC seeks to ensure that equality principles are applied to all funding activities, and considers that no one should be excluded or hindered in from a career in science because of their sex, ethnic background, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief, pregnancy or maternity, marriage or civil partnership (protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010). For further information on our policy on ‘Funding Equality and Diversity’ can be found at: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/funding-equality-diversity.aspx> of our website. Any issues that may arise throughout the funding process, regarding equality and diversity, should be directed to: policy@bbsrc.ac.uk
- 1.6. BBSRC funds research in:
 - plants (BBSRC is the principal public funder of plant science in the UK)
 - microbes
 - animals (including humans)
 - tools and technology underpinning biological research

from the level of molecules and cells, to tissues, whole organisms, populations and landscapes.

- 1.7. Information about the scientific remit of BBSRC is available at <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/grants/remit.aspx>.
- 1.8. BBSRC works with the other Research Councils to ensure that applications for funding for research that lie close to remit boundaries are addressed by the most appropriate Council. For example, in general, we fund human physiology, cell biology, and genetics and genomics research relevant to understanding normal human function, but we do **not** fund research focused on specific human diseases and disease processes or abnormal conditions. We fund work on animal diseases, however studies primarily involving animal models of human disease and human toxicology, including abnormal toxicological reactions and drug toxicity, are not in the remit of BBSRC.
- 1.9. BBSRC funds research on livestock species and managed land (e.g. agriculture). Studies on wild species are only within the remit of BBSRC when they act as a suitable model and provide wider understanding of biological processes.
- 1.10. If you have a general remit query, or require advice on which Committee to submit your application to, send your queries to:

remit@bbsrc.ac.uk

1.11. General enquiries relating to this document , including eligibility, should be sent to:

eligibility@bbsrc.ac.uk

1.12. As part of the Research Councils' drive to improve efficiency and effectiveness, BBSRC's grants are administered by the RCUK Shared Services Centre (SSC). SSC is the primary point of contact for all queries regarding the processing of BBSRCs proposals and administration of current awards. If you have any queries for pre award (with the exception of eligibility, see paragraph 1.11 above) please contact the SSC at:

GrantsBBSRC@ssc.rcuk.ac.uk Telephone 01793 867126

For any Post Award administration queries please refer in the first instance to the Cross Council Terms & Conditions which can be found on the following web link:-

<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/research-grant-terms-conditions.aspx> or consult with your admin/finance office for further guidance. Where you are requesting a change to an existing grant, please refer to the grants maintenance section of the JeS handbook: <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/Handbook/Index.htm>. For any other guidance which is not covered in the above please contact:

GrantsPostAward@ssc.rcuk.ac.uk Telephone 01793 867121

Further information on the Shared Services Centre Ltd grants process can be found on the [RCUK website](#).

Pathways to Impact

1.13. Each year the UK Research Councils invest around £3 billion in research and research training in the UK covering the full spectrum of academic disciplines, which has a huge impact on the wellbeing and economy of the UK. It is crucial that the Research Councils demonstrate the economic, societal and cultural impact of the research it funds to show value for public funding.

1.14. In this context, there is now a greater need to involve researchers more directly in demonstrating the impact of their research. To enable this to happen, researchers need to be actively involved in thinking about demonstrating the value of their research and its wider impacts from its inception to completion – and ideally beyond if we are to capture and demonstrate the longer-term impact of activities.

1.15. At the application stage we do not expect applicants or peer reviewers to be able to predict the economic or societal impacts that their research will achieve. However, we want to encourage applicants to consider and explore, in ways that are appropriate given the nature of the research they are proposing to conduct, potential pathways to impact, for example through engagement or collaboration with partners.

1.16. Research Councils UK (RCUK) describe impact in the following ways:

Academic impact

- The demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to academic advances, across and within disciplines, including significant advances in understanding, methods, theory and application.

Economic and Societal Impact

- The demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy. Economic and societal impact embraces all the extremely diverse ways in which research-related knowledge and skills benefit individuals, organisations and nations by:

- Fostering global economic performance, and specifically the economic competitiveness of the United Kingdom.
- Increasing the effectiveness of public services and policy.
- Enhancing quality of life, health and creative output.

1.17. When applying for BBSRC research grant funding, advice on how to complete the relevant sections of the application form may be found in the JeS handbook: <http://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/Handbook/index.htm>.

1.18. For detailed information on the RCUK position in regard to the development and implementation of the Impact Summaries and Pathways to Impact (formally known as Impact Plans), please go to the relevant page on the RCUK website at <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/kei/impacts/Pages/home.aspx>.

Standards of Performance

General

1.19. BBSRC supports research relevant to its mission through the provision of research grants. The information contained in this section is designed to give researchers an idea of the help and advice that can be obtained from BBSRC and SSC on research grants and also of what BBSRC grant holders can do to assist BBSRC to promote their research.

Obtaining information about BBSRC research grants

1.20. Information on the science areas covered by BBSRC, contact details for the Committee secretariats and details about how to apply for research grants are published on the BBSRC Website (<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/grants/areas.aspx>).

Applying to BBSRC

1.21. When applying to BBSRC for a research grant you must:

- read and observe the application procedures contained in the current BBSRC Grants Guide (<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/grants-guide.aspx>);
- complete the grant application in accordance with the Je-S Handbook (<https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/Handbook/Index.htm>) and BBSRC guidance notes (<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/apply-index.aspx>);
- meet deadlines;
- quote the research grant reference number allocated to your application in any subsequent correspondence.

1.22. When a principal applicant submits an application to BBSRC for a research grant he/she can expect:

- fair and efficient handling of the application throughout the assessment process;
- equal treatment regardless of age, sex, disability or ethnic background;
- notification of the outcome of the application, normally within twenty-six weeks from the cut-off date and within three calendar months of the decision date.

1.23. As a BBSRC grant holder you will be required:

- to observe all aspects of the conditions set out in this text incorporating the understandings in the agreement between the Funders and Employers of Researchers in the UK in the “Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers” (<http://www.vitae.ac.uk/policy-practice/505181/Concordat-to-Support-the-Career-Development-of-Researchers.html>);

- to adhere to the BBSRC Statement on Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice (http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Policies/good_scientific_practice.pdf);
- to submit a final report on the work carried out on your research grant within three months from the end date;
- to undertake reviews of research grant proposals submitted to BBSRC when requested.

In addition:

- SSC will notify the institution that a research grant has been awarded;
- SSC will make regular research grant payments to the institution once work on the project has started.

To be fully effective we also need your help:

Information

- 1.24. We frequently have to provide information to Government on Science and Society issues and on a variety of scientific topics relating to those parts of the science budget for which the BBSRC is responsible. So that we can respond promptly, we may ask for information about you and/or your project. When this happens, we will explain why we are requesting information and how it will be used. Please reply on time; it will help BBSRC, but it may also help you and your research.

*If you have a **query**:*

- 1.25. If you have a query about the way your research grant application has been dealt with or any other aspect of BBSRC research grant funding, please raise it with the person dealing with the Committee area to which your application was submitted, details of which can be found on the Committee web pages at <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/grants/areas.aspx>.
- 1.26. Your query will be dealt with under BBSRC's Service Standards but if you remain dissatisfied with the way in which it is handled, you may register a formal complaint with the BBSRC Complaints Officer.
- 1.27. Full details of BBSRC's Service Standards and Complaints Procedures can be found at <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/organisation/policies/position/foi/complaints.aspx>.

Using our experts

As a BBSRC grant holder you can make use of BBSRC's expertise in areas such as:

Science and Society

- 1.28. BBSRC's External Relations Unit has a wide range of experience encompassing media relations, public engagement and public dialogue activities, digital communications, copy writing, issues management and advice and stakeholder liaison. If you would like advice with any of these activities or for further information please contact BBSRC External Relations Unit: external.relations@bbsrc.ac.uk.

International Relations Unit

- 1.29. Through their wide ranging network of contacts and their liaison work, BBSRC's International Relations Unit can help you to maximise international opportunities. For further information, please contact the unit at iru@bbsrc.ac.uk.

Business Interaction Unit

- 1.30. BBSRC's Business Interaction Unit has a wide variety of Knowledge Transfer support mechanisms to enable researchers to maximise the economic and social impacts of their research through collaborative research and training, commercialisation opportunities and people and information exchanges. For further information please contact business.unit@bbsrc.ac.uk or see our website <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/business/business-index.aspx/>.

Feedback

- 1.31. BBSRC and the SSC would welcome feedback from you on what we do and how we do it. If there are any comments you may wish to make, please write either to your contact at BBSRC or use the SSC 'Compliments, Comments and Complaints' contact at feedback@ssc.rcuk.ac.uk.

BBSRC Mission Statement

- 1.32. To promote and support, by any means, high-quality basic, strategic and applied research and related postgraduate training relating to the understanding and exploitation of biological systems.

To advance knowledge and technology (including the promotion and support of the exploitation of research outcomes), and provide trained scientists and engineers, which meet the needs of users and beneficiaries (including the agriculture, bioprocessing, chemical, food, healthcare, pharmaceutical and other biotechnological related industries), thereby contributing to the economic competitiveness of the United Kingdom and the quality of life.

In relation to the Council's activities, and as the Council may see fit, to:

- Generate public awareness
- Communicate research outcomes
- Encourage public engagement and dialogue
- Disseminate knowledge

2 THE RESEARCH GRANT FRAMEWORK

- 2.1. BBSRC funds research through a range of different mechanisms, one of which is the provision of research grants for specified projects. The following research grant categories are in line with the Government's policy that Research Councils' funding should be opened up to the fullest extent, consistent with the maintenance of the health of the UK science and engineering base.
- 2.2. The research proposed in a research grant application must address scientific issues relevant to BBSRC's mission. If the application is not within the remit, it will be rejected by the office. Applicants will then be able to submit the application to another Research Council under their eligibility, remit and submission rules. BBSRC's decision will be final. Further information about the role of BBSRC may be found in publications such as "BBSRC Business" and on the BBSRC website.
- 2.3. BBSRC research grants provide researchers with support for high quality research projects of timeliness and promise in which the principal applicant(s) will be personally involved.
- 2.4. Although currently the majority of research grants are awarded for three years, applications for longer periods of funding, normally up to a maximum of five years, are welcomed if this better meets the requirement of the research project.

Modes of research grant:

Responsive Mode

- 2.5. Grants are awarded in response to unsolicited research proposals in any area relevant to BBSRC's mission. As a general principle, BBSRC allocates as much research grant funding as possible in responsive mode. You can apply for a variety of investigator-led research activities through responsive mode. These include, but are not limited to:
 - Research projects, **including technology development projects**
 - Equipment or use of existing facilities
 - New facilities or infrastructure provision
 - Research networks and coordination
 - Summer schools

Funding is available for up to 5 years. This includes **short duration activities** such as small pilot projects or proof of concept studies, which are often less than two years in duration.

Applications are assessed by the appropriate BBSRC Research Committee using the standard BBSRC competitiveness appraisal factors. Proposals that request support for non-research activities (e.g. use of existing equipment, networks, workshops, infrastructure development, summer schools) should make it clear in the case for support the rationale for the activity and how they address BBSRC strategic priorities.

Managed Mode

- 2.6. Calls for proposals with applications invited with one or more closing dates. These will normally be used in response to an emerging scientific opportunity where there is a need to enhance research activity to stimulate a particular area of science within the established BBSRC science base.

Categories of eligible organisations

- 2.7. UK Higher Education Institutions, all Research Council Institutes, and BBSRC approved [Independent Research Organisations](#).

Research grant schemes

Collaborative Grants with Industry

- 2.8. BBSRC is keen to promote, wherever appropriate, links between the science base and industry, and seeks to encourage them through a variety of mechanisms. It is recognised that the likelihood of basic and strategic research being taken up by users will be enhanced if there is industrial awareness of and involvement in projects funded by BBSRC.
- 2.9. Accordingly, BBSRC supports science carried out by academic researchers in partnership with UK industry or other user organisations, where an industrial partner makes a contribution to a science base-led project funded by the Council. The Council does not provide funding to the industrial partner. BBSRC will consider proposals for projects involving academic-industrial partnerships that address scientific topics within any area of its remit.
- 2.10. Industrial partners are welcome on all BBSRC research grant applications. However, BBSRC has two formal mechanisms to specifically support collaborative research with an industrial partner:
- i. **Industrial Partnership Award (IPA) scheme:** Standard peer-reviewed research grants, but with financial support from industrial partners.
 - ii. **'Stand-alone' LINK scheme:** pre-competitive research, funded 50:50 with industrial partners.
- 2.11. Applications can be submitted in any area of BBSRC remit and are assessed by the responsive mode committees. Applications should be made via Je-S using the standard application form for responsive mode grants, but the form should indicate that it is to be considered under the LINK or Industrial Partnership Award scheme when specifying the classification. The same rules and closing dates apply for Stand Alone LINK grants and IPAs as for responsive mode applications. The application should be directed to the Committee with the most appropriate remit. Only organisations eligible to receive BBSRC responsive mode research grant funding may apply.
- 2.12. For both IPAs and stand-alone LINK grants, applicants should ensure that they fully address the contribution of the industry collaborator to the project, how the collaboration will be managed and how that collaboration will increase the likely impacts of the project. To assist in this applicants should include the following within their application:
- The case for support should describe the value of the partnership that underpins the proposed research project including details of the scientific benefits to each collaborator.
 - Applications should outline how the collaboration will increase the likely impacts of the research. The industry partner(s) should be encouraged to contribute to the 'Pathways to Impact' part of the application. Where appropriate, applicants should also consider broader plans for engaging potential industry users of the research within the Pathways to Impact.
 - A letter of support from the industry partner(s) should be attached to the proposal outlining their contribution to the project and describing their involvement. For stand-alone LINK grants, the industrial partner(s) should justify the values attributed to the in-kind contributions of the project.
 - A letter should be attached describing the expected IP management and distribution arrangements of this collaboration. This letter should be signed off by the industrial partner budget holder (or equivalent) as well as colleagues in the institution's Technology Transfer Offer (or equivalent). This document will not be legally binding but should form a strong basis for collaboration agreement if the grant is awarded funding. The letter should

also confirm that if the application is successful, a collaboration agreement will be put in place between all partners before research commences in line with Cross-Research Council Research Grant Terms and Conditions. The preliminary terms of the agreement outlined in this letter will not be assessed as part of the peer review process.

- 2.13. If awarded funding for a collaborative project, a signed copy of the collaboration agreement should be submitted to BBSRC either within three months of the award, or before work starts (whichever is the sooner). BBSRC will not retain the agreement on file.

Industrial Partnership Awards

- 2.14. Applications with a direct cash contribution from industry of at least 10% of the full cost of the project will qualify for IPA status. Whilst additional in-kind contributions are encouraged, in-kind support will not be taken into account in determining consideration for IPA status.
- 2.15. To calculate the cash contribution required, firstly determine the full economic cost of the project as a whole. Use 10% of this value as the minimum cash contribution required from the industrial partner. Once the cash contribution has been agreed, subtract this contribution amount from the original full project cost. The outstanding balance should then be requested from BBSRC. For further information please see the FAQs for IPA and LINK grants in the downloads section of the website <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/files/guidelines/1209-ipa-link-faqs.pdf>.
- 2.16. BBSRC attaches particular weight to IPA applications and they are viewed favourably in its assessment process for Responsive Mode Research Grants. A responsive-mode IPA project that is judged to be of appropriate quality would normally be funded in preference to a standard grant of equivalent scientific merit, because of the significant user interest demonstrated by the industrial contribution to the cost of the proposed research.
- 2.17. To enable BBSRC to monitor the progress of the industry collaboration on IPA grants, BBSRC will request a short midterm report from the industrial partner(s) to confirm they are still engaged in the project and highlight any significant outcomes for the company or concerns they have. Completed reports will be reviewed by the office.
- 2.18. User interest and contributions from industry are also taken into account in the assessment of applications for funding from the Council's Responsive and Managed Mode Initiatives. BBSRC will determine on a case-by-case basis whether some or all of the provisions of the IPA scheme will apply to individual initiatives, and details will be announced in the relevant calls for proposals.
- 2.19. Before submitting an application or an IPA, researchers may wish to contact industry.collaboration@bbsrc.ac.uk.

Stand-Alone LINK

- 2.20. Applications with a direct cash/in-kind contribution from industry of at least 50% of the full cost of the project and meeting the following criteria, will qualify for stand-alone LINK status:
- the project involves collaborative research with at least one company and one research-base partner;
 - overall BBSRC support for a project is no more than 50%;
 - the application is for research which is pre-competitive in nature;
 - arrangements for ownership and exploitation of the intellectual property arising from the project have been agreed by the partners;

- the project has an appropriate management framework and both the scientific and commercial deliverables are clearly defined.

2.21. Eligible in-kind contributions include:

- the salaries of the personnel working directly on the project;
- materials consumed in the course of the project;
- capital equipment purchased or constructed for the project, less its estimated value to the business at the end of the project;
- sub-contract charges and consultancy fees and cost of equivalent services used exclusively for the research activity, bought from outside sources, project management costs such as travel, office space etc. that are additional to those normally involved;
- an allowance for reasonable overheads;
- reasonable costs associated with any losses incurred by the industry partner.

2.22. Access to data should be provided free of charge.

2.23. Applicants should justify the value of the 'in-kind' contribution in a letter of support from the industrial partner. Peer-reviewers will be asked to comment on value for money provided by the 'in-kind' contribution. If an applicant is unsure if the in-kind contributions meet BBSRCs guidelines, they should contact industry.collaboration@bbsrc.ac.uk.

2.24. To calculate the value of the industry contribution required, firstly determine the full economic cost of the project as a whole. Use 50% of this value as the minimum contribution required from the industrial partner(s). Once the contribution has been agreed, subtract this contribution amount from the original full project cost. The outstanding balance should then be requested from BBSRC. For further information please see the FAQs for IPA and LINK grants in the downloads section of the website: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/files/guidelines/1209-ipa-link-faqs.pdf>.

2.25. BBSRC attaches particular weight to stand-alone LINK applications and they are viewed favourably in its assessment process for Responsive Research Grants. A responsive-mode stand-alone LINK project that is judged to be of appropriate quality would normally be funded because of the significant user interest demonstrated by the significant industrial contribution to the cost of the proposed research.

2.26. LINK projects are required to hold 6-monthly meetings between the project partners. A condition on the grant will require the agendas and minutes of the 6-monthly meetings to be made available to BBSRC and BBSRC staff should be invited to attend the meetings. An individual member of BBSRC staff will be assigned to each LINK grant and will be the key contact for the project, monitor the meeting reports and collaboration and aim to attend at least three meetings during the course of the project.

2.27. Before submitting an application for a stand-alone LINK grant, researchers are strongly encouraged to contact industry.collaboration@bbsrc.ac.uk.

New Investigator Scheme

2.28. The New Investigator scheme is a mechanism designed primarily to assist newly employed university lecturers, researchers in Research Council Institutes (at a level equivalent to lecturer), and fellows (at a level equivalent to lecturer) to secure their first major element of research support funding.

- 2.29. For details of the specific applicant eligibility requirements for the scheme, please see paragraphs 3.11 to 3.16 of this guide. These paragraphs must be read in conjunction with the standard eligibility requirements for all potential applicants as covered in Section 3.

Other funding schemes

Follow-on Fund (FoF)

- 2.30. The Follow-on Fund scheme aims to enable the commercial potential of ideas arising from BBSRC supported research to be demonstrated. The Fund will support activities essential to securing commercial opportunities such as licensing, seed or venture finance through further scientific or technical development. Full details can be found at <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/business/commercialisation/follow-on.aspx>.

National facilities

- 2.31. BBSRC accepts applications requiring access to the High Performance Computing facilities at the University of Edinburgh (HECToR) and The Genome Analysis Centre (TGAC). A Technical Assessment Form (TAF) must be included with any application; applications without a TAF will not be accepted and will be withdrawn. Applications requiring access to facilities at Daresbury and Rutherford Appleton Laboratories supported by the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) and to the Diamond synchrotron are also accepted. However, grant holders are expected to apply directly to the facilities for the time required for their research, once they have obtained grant funding. Full details of how to apply to these facilities are available from the User Liaison Offices of the relevant facility.

Equipment

- 2.32. BBSRC accepts requests for equipment as part of standard research grant applications to the research committees. These applications for equipment must be research project led. Full justification for the requested equipment must be included in the Justification of Resources attachment.

Cross Council reciprocal funding arrangements

- 2.33. All Research Council Institutes are eligible to apply for BBSRC responsive mode funding (sub-paragraph 2.5.1 refers) and in response to calls for proposals (sub-paragraph 2.6.1 refers). Similarly, researchers from BBSRC institutes can apply to NERC, MRC, EPSRC, ESRC, STFC and AHRC.

BBSRC Independent Research Organisations

- 2.34. Access to Responsive Mode funding is generally limited to Higher Education Institutes and Research Council Institutes. However, other organisations that consider they have the research capability to extend and enhance the BBSRC science base, may apply to become classified as an Independent Research Organisations (IRO). This status allows access to funding in response to specific Calls for Proposals but not normally to Responsive Mode funding. The eligibility framework for Research Council funding under which applications for IRO status are considered, together with a list of the current IROs of all the Research Councils may be found on the Research Councils UK website at <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/Pages/Eligibilityforrcs.aspx>.
- 2.35. All IROs are subject to periodic review. IRO status with one Research Council does not necessarily mean a similar status applies with any of the others. Applications for IRO status may be submitted at any time on the standard application form available from and returnable to, the Je-S helpdesk at JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk.

Joint research projects

- 2.36. Joint research projects provide researchers from two or more eligible institutions with an opportunity to apply for resources and funding for the same research project with a view to undertaking specific areas of the research project at each institution. Where this is the case, funds may be requested in either of two ways:
- Submitting one research grant application from the lead institution or,
 - Submitting a research grant application from each institution.

Further details on how to complete joint research project grant applications are given at paragraphs 4.30 to 4.32.

Collaborative research grants

- 2.37. Collaborative Research grants provide researchers in eligible institutions with an opportunity to participate with other organisations in research projects. BBSRC funds part or all of the work carried out by the applicant, but does not fund the collaborating partner. Examples of collaborative research grants are Industrial Partnership Awards & LINK. See paragraphs 2.7 to 2.24.

Collaborations with Institutes

- 2.38. These are intended to encourage, for mutual benefit, the use and development of complementary experience and skills and experimental facilities between university researchers and researchers from BBSRC-sponsored institutes or the Scottish Government's Main Research Providers (MRPs). Applicants must demonstrate that the proposed research will provide added value over and above what would have been achieved from two separate contributions and clearly show a commitment to joint working from both the university and institute researchers. A programme co-ordinator must be identified, but overall the research should be managed in concert. Applications must contain the written support of the Institute Director. If a BBSRC sponsored institute is applying for funding, the application should be a joint proposal (paragraph 2.36 refers). Applications involving collaboration with an MRP, which require additional funding for the MRP, must contain written support from the Scottish Government agreeing in principle to fund the MRP part of the proposal.

Other Collaborations

- 2.39. Potential principal applicants who wish to collaborate with researchers at other institutions and those from other countries are advised to contact the appropriate research committee prior to submitting an application. The extent and reasons for any collaboration must be described fully in the case for support.
- 2.40. In all instances of collaborative activity **both applicants and collaborators/project partners must be aware that any costs incurred, direct or otherwise, by either collaborators or collaborators institutions (project partners) in connection with collaborations, cannot be met by BBSRC.**

Project Partners

- 2.41. Applicants may name formal Project Partners, who will **not** receive funding directly from the grant, but will have an integral role in the proposed research. An organisation should only be named as a Project Partner if it is providing specific contributions (either direct or indirect) to the proposed project. Project Partners must be separate organisation(s) to those submitting the proposal.
- 2.42. It is the responsibility of named Project Partners to read and comply with the terms and conditions relating to applications for research grants (<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/research-grant-terms-conditions.aspx>).

- 2.43. Each Project Partner must confirm, where appropriate, the availability of the necessary facilities, resources and infrastructure in a project-specific letter of support of up to two pages in length. The letter should be on headed paper, dated within six months of the date of submission of the proposal and have the signature of the named contact in the partnering organisation. The letter should confirm the organisations role in and commitment to the proposed project and explain how it will contribute to the impact of the project. The partnering organisation's involvement in the project including their contributions to it, whether in cash or in kind, should also be explained in detail in the case for support, including the equivalent value of any in-kind contributions. In-kind contributions can include but are not limited to staff time, access to equipment, sites or facilities, the provision of data, software or materials.
- 2.44. The cash or in-kind values must not be included in the costs claimed on the Je-S form. Project partner contributions in cash or in-kind are not considered part of the fEC of the project. An exception operates for Industrial Partnership Awards. For completion of the relevant part of the Je-S form see the Je-S help text under the 'project partners' sub heading of '**Guidance on completing a standard grant application**' of the Je-S handbook at <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/Handbook/Index.htm>.

Collaborators

- 2.45. In instances where a collaboration is restricted to intellectual input into a project or the provision of materials(e.g. cell lines) by a researcher or their organisation **at no cost**, a letter from the researcher or organisation confirming the extent of the collaboration is required.

Sub-contracting

- 2.46. BBSRC considers eligible institutions to be best placed to determine how their work is undertaken. In the case of a grant application, if this involves sub-contracting aspects of the work to non-eligible institutions due, for example, to the lack of appropriate expertise in eligible institutions, this is acceptable. In such circumstances, BBSRC would pay the awarded eligible institution which in turn would sub-contract to the service provider as appropriate. This is, of course, without prejudice to the eligibility status of these other non-eligible institutions. Funds requested for sub-contracting should be included in the 'Other Directly Incurred Costs' section of the Je-S application form. Organisations undertaking sub-contracting should refer to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers at <http://www.vitae.ac.uk/policy-practice/505181/Concordat-to-Support-the-Career-Development-of-Researchers.html> for information on the training and development opportunities that should be made available to researchers by employers.
- 2.47. Except in instances where the service provider is from the public sector, the conferring of any IP, author or other rights to it by the contractor in relation to the research grant application for which it was contracted to provide a service, is not permissible. The inclusion of an acknowledgement in any resulting material of the sub-contracted organisation's contribution to the research is however acceptable. Should there be an intimation or desire on the part of the contractor and/or subcontractor not within the public sector, for other than such an acknowledgement e.g. co-author status on resulting publications, then the interaction between the parties concerned would be deemed to equate to a collaboration. In such circumstances, paragraphs 2.39 and 2.40 above would apply.

Other funding arrangements

Support for international activity

- 2.48. It is important that the UK bioscience community benefits from European and international funding sources and that BBSRC's science programme is strengthened by international collaboration.

- 2.49. BBSRC promotes international links to exploit new scientific opportunities, and to explore ways of sharing knowledge for mutual benefit. Full details of all schemes which include:

International Scientific Interchange Scheme (ISIS)

International Workshops

Japan, China, India and United States Partnering Awards

are on the BBSRC website at <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/internationalfunding/international-funding-index.aspx>.

Technology Strategy Board Technology Programme: Collaborative Research and Development Grant Competition

- 2.50. BBSRC, along with other Research Councils participates in the Collaborative Research and Development Competitions run by the Technology Strategy Board. The scheme affords the Research Councils the opportunity to involve themselves in industry led projects which have a significant high quality academic component and fall within their remit. Full details of the scheme can be found at www.innovateuk.org/deliveringinnovation/collaborativeresearchanddevelopment.ashx

Information on BBSRC participation may be obtained from Dr Alex Chaix who can be contacted by email at Alex.Chaix@bbsrc.ac.uk.

Working with Business

- 2.51. BBSRC works with industry, government and others to harness business opportunities and deliver economic impact from the research we fund as quickly as possible. Information on the schemes available from BBSRC and its collaborating partners include:

Research and Technology Clubs (RTCs)

Modular Training for Industry programme (MTI)

Enterprise Fellowships (EF)

Industry Fellowships (IF)

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP)

Industry Interchange Programme (IIP)

Information about these schemes is available at <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/business/business-index.aspx>.

- 2.52. Additionally, BBSRC is working with the TSB to promote “Post Doc KTPs”, aimed at ongoing partnerships, established for example through a CASE or Industrial CASE studentship, which provide the opportunity for the Associate to embed the outcomes of their research project into the partner company. Full details can be found at <http://www.ktponline.org.uk/graduate-opportunities/>.

Support for Sequencing

Large-scale DNA Sequencing

- 2.53. In recognition of the increasing requirement for sequencing in research, large scale DNA sequencing needs will be assessed as research grant applications in competition with others in responsive mode.
- 2.54. There is no special fund or assessment procedure for applications including sequencing but if your grant application includes large-scale or whole genome sequencing you should include the following information within the standard scientific case for support:

- a description of the purposes to which the sequence would be put and the scientific benefits to be gained, making clear those which would derive directly from the grant and those which would be dependent on further resource
- a statement of the UK research user community (where this is wider than the applicants), its international competitiveness, the science for which they would use the resource, and the impact on the wider scientific and user community (e.g. industry)
- an assessment of the strategic relevance of the activity to the BBSRC Mission and any priority areas
- an indication of other known sequence data on the same or similar organisms, available or proposed, (e.g. in industry or overseas) and why these cannot be used
- arrangements for the documentation, storage and distribution of the sequence and the capture of resources and data arising from its research use. It will be required that sequence data will be released immediately into the public domain unless there are exceptional arguments which should be explained
- arrangements to ensure the awareness of the target user community, and to secure any synergistic benefits from coordinating usage and sharing of data
- an appropriate project team including necessary data management expertise and a management or steering committee where the user community is large or involves many institutions or interests
- evidence that the chosen facility has the appropriate technical capabilities in the sequencing and data analysis

2.55. Very large whole genome sequencing projects are unlikely to be supported outside the context of international collaborations. Contact us for advice on this if needed.

2.56. Where no suitable UK academic partner for sequencing can be found, we will consider funding the acquisition of sequence from industrial and/or overseas source. Your choice of sequencing organisation should be justified in terms of scientific suitability and cost effectiveness by following the guidelines above when completing your application.

2.57. Enquires relating to support for sequencing should be directed to:

Rowan McKibbin

Email: Rowan.McKibbin@bbsrc.ac.uk

Telephone: 01793 413212

Resources for DNA Sequencing

2.58. Following the introduction of full economic costing (fEC) the resources for DNA sequencing requested through research grants can be supported at either 100% fEC or 80% fEC. In order to qualify for the resources to be granted at 100% fEC, the sequencing will need to be carried out through a contract to an institution or organisation ineligible to apply for BBSRC funding. Funds for sequencing must be applied for and will be awarded in £ Sterling; any grant made will include 100% of the costs only; no indexation will be applied and no further funds will be granted for this activity to cover, for example, currency fluctuations. It is possible to request support for other activities associated with DNA sequencing such as annotation of the sequence, but in order for this to qualify for 100% fEC, it must also be undertaken by an organisation not eligible for BBSRC funding.

3 ELIGIBILITY

Institutional eligibility

- 3.1. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Research Council Institutes (RCIs) may apply for research grants. Certain elements of funding are also open to other Independent Research Organisations (IROs) (see paragraphs 2.34-2.35), and the Scottish Government's Main Research Providers (MRPs), see <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/opportunities/2012/food-security-and-environment-change.aspx>.

Eligibility of Applicants and Co-Applicants

- 3.2. In determining whether or not an application will be accepted, BBSRC will consider a range of factors in relation to the applicant(s) such as their status and the duration and nature of their employment. The decision on eligibility resides with BBSRC and is final. Applications will only be accepted from those categories of researchers specifically mentioned in the paragraphs below as being eligible to apply to BBSRC.
- 3.3. Principal applicants must meet the criteria under each of the sections i, ii and iii below and co-applicants the criteria given in section iv below.
- i They must be resident in the UK at the time of application **or** will be moving to the UK to take up an already agreed contract at an eligible organisation (the contract must not be dependent on the outcome of the application), and will remain resident in the UK for the duration of the proposed project.
- ii At the time of application they must either:
- a. be employed by the eligible Research Organisation submitting the proposal and hold an academic staff appointment there (lecturer level or equivalent) which is resourced from the central funds of the organisation. For RCIs, with the exception of NERC where this will be researchers at the NERC Band 5 level, lecturer equivalent will be researchers at the new unified Research Council Band E level. Additionally MRC ESS staff located within university departments holding honorary university appointments which would outlast the period of a proposed grant may also apply;
- b. if not employed by the submitting organisation (providing they are **not in receipt of funding by non-eligible organisations**), have an existing written formal arrangement with the organisation confirming that the research will be conducted as if the applicant were an employee at lecturer level or equivalent, i.e. that enables him or her to carry out research there and receive from the organisation all necessary management and infrastructural support, and that commits the organisation to take full responsibility for the research and its proper governance;
- Or
- c. be scheduled to move to the submitting organisation before the proposed start date of the grant, whether or not the proposal is successful, in such a way that would ensure that criterion a) or b) is met by the time the grant starts (In this case, the affiliation shown for the applicant should be the organisation that would hold the grant).
- iii At the time of application, they must have either:
- a. a contract of employment that extends to beyond the duration of the proposed grant (or, if not employed by the submitting organisation, a formal arrangement as described in iib above that extends to beyond the duration of the proposed grant);

Or

- b. an assurance from the submitting organisation that, *if the proposal is successful*, the contract of employment, or formal commitment to provide support if not employed at the organisation, will extend to beyond the end date of the grant.
 - iv Co-applicants must also meet the criteria in sections i, ii and iii above but replacing the phrase 'submitting organisation' with an 'eligible organisation'.
- 3.4. Those in receipt of lecturer level equivalent postdoctoral fellowships from either the Research Councils or award-giving bodies such as the Royal Society and the Wellcome Trust may also apply, as may the recipients of internal university fellowships that have a similar lecturer level equivalent status. Potential applicants who are in receipt of a Fellowship should contact eligibility@bbsrc.ac.uk prior to submitting a proposal to confirm eligibility for BBSRC funding. All fellowships must have been secured in open competition. Furthermore, with the exception of internally awarded university fellowships, all fellowships must be tenable at any BBSRC eligible academic institution. Information on the type and nature of the fellowship held, together with its end date and the funding it provides, must be included either in the application case for support or in the applicants C.V. accompanying the application. In addition, written notification from the fellowship provider permitting the fellow to undertake the additional research and other activities required in association with any research grant application submitted should also be attached.
- 3.5. Holders of RCUK Academic Fellowships are eligible to apply. However, they must ensure that any commitments they have to existing research projects are discussed with their institutions prior to the completion and submission of a research grant application. Although recipients of RCUK Academic Fellowships who are initially supported as Post Doctoral Research Assistants (PDRA) on research grants are eligible to apply for new research grants in their own right, they cannot start any successful award until they have completed their PDRA duties on the original research grant.
- 3.6. In authorising an application, the Head of Department in whose department the research will be carried out, or the Director of the Research Council Institute, is agreeing that, in the event of the application being successful, full research facilities and support will be provided throughout the period of the research and that, in the case of a fellow whose fellowship does not extend beyond the duration of the grant, they are also agreeing to underwrite the fellow's salary costs for the outstanding period in relation to the grant. A letter of support confirming this must be attached to the application. Details of the post the fellow will be appointed to should be given in the application case for support. Authorisation of the application also confirms that there is no conflict of interest between the investigator's obligations to BBSRC and to any other organisation or employer.
- 3.7. Other senior university research personnel with appointments resourced from the central funds of their institutions at the time of application may also apply if they carry both a level of responsibility and range of duties appropriate to a person with substantial research experiences e.g. they occupy a post equating to at least lecturer level. A confirmatory statement to this effect from the Head of Department is required together with a written assurance from the applicant's institution that should the applicant be without a contract of employment extending beyond the period of the proposed grant at the time of application, such a contract will be put in place if the proposal is successful. Those researchers who may fall within this category should contact BBSRC via email (eligibility@bbsrc.ac.uk) for confirmation of their eligibility prior to the submission of any application.

Researcher Co-Investigators

- 3.8. A post doctoral research assistant who is not eligible to be either principal or co-investigator in their own right, but who has made a substantial, recognised contribution to the formulation and development of the project and who will be engaged in the ensuing research may, with the approval of the principal applicant, be named as the "Researcher Co-Investigator" in the application. This title will be recorded and included in published information.

- 3.9. A “Researcher Co-Investigator” will be:
- Named as the RA on the proposed research project,
 - Identified in the application as a key contributor to the project,
 - Employed on the project by and based at, the institutions of either the principal or any co-applicant(s).
- 3.10. The institution is responsible for all matters in relation to an employee’s contract of employment including the procurement of work permits where necessary. See also paragraph 5.10 and Term and Condition GC 8 of the core Cross-Council research grant terms and conditions accessible from the ‘apply for funding’ page of our website at <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/apply-index.aspx> . BBSRC has no restrictions or requirements on residency, nationality or citizenship in relation to research support staff funded from a grant.

New Investigators (see also paragraphs 2.26 and 2.27)

- 3.11. To be considered under the scheme, applicants at the time of the closing date for submission to the grant round in which the application will be assessed, must have no more than three years full-time employment (or the full-time equivalent taking account of career breaks, part-time employment, etc.) at lecturer or equivalent level. They must also be able to satisfy both the following specific eligibility requirements for the scheme as well as the normal eligibility requirements for BBSRC responsive mode grants, Paragraphs 3.2 to 3.6 refer.
- 3.12. Researchers who have been co-investigators on successful grant applications are eligible to apply to the scheme.
- 3.13. Applicants must not have received or currently be in receipt of competitively obtained research or support funding from any source as a Principal Investigator where such funding includes or included Postdoctoral Research Assistant (PDRA) staff support costs; this includes grants associated with fellowships. If, however, PDRA support has been provided by an institution as part of an internal support agreement or as part of the applicants start up package, this must be declared but would not render the applicant ineligible. **Other grant funding requests where the results are not known at the time of submission but which are subsequently successful will also come under this category and therefore details of such requests must be given in the application and their outcome notified to BBSRC immediately they become known.**
- 3.14. Applicants may submit only one New Investigator application to each BBSRC grant round, and they may not submit another type of grant application as a Principal Investigator to the same grant round. Researchers may be awarded only one research grant under the New Investigator scheme.
- 3.15. Although applicants are normally expected to be the sole investigator, in order to encourage projects of an interdisciplinary nature, a co-investigator who is from a discipline other than biological sciences may be included in the application. If, however, the New Investigator is from a non-biological science, a co-applicant from the biological sciences may be included.
- 3.16. Applications will be judged against the same criteria as other responsive mode proposals; however, research potential rather than track record will be taken into account. In addition to the case for support, a letter from the applicant’s Head of Department describing the support and financial contribution the institution will be providing specific to the start up of their laboratory and which is the responsibility of the institution to undertake, is also required.

General enquiries regarding eligibility

3.17. If there is any doubt about any aspect of eligibility of either the institution or the applicants, advice can be sought from BBSRC prior to submission via email:

eligibility@bbsrc.ac.uk

3.18. When submitting an eligibility query applicants must include:

- A short description outlining your query
- A detailed CV for the applicant(s) the query concerns
- Any additional supporting information you may deem relevant, such as a letter from a Head of Department detailing the nature and responsibilities of a particular post or fellowship

3.19. Email queries will be reviewed and acknowledge within one week and applicants should typically expect a response within two working weeks.

4 THE APPLICATION PROCESS

How to apply

- 4.1. BBSRC can only accept research grant proposals submitted using the [Je-S \(Joint electronic Submission\)](#).
- 4.2. All applications must be submitted via Je-S before 4pm on the specified closing date and no exceptions will be made for late applications. It is recommended that applications are submitted one week ahead of deadlines.
- 4.3. General enquiries regarding the Je-S should be directed to the Je-S helpdesk.
JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk Telephone: 01793 444164
- 4.4. Applicants and their organisations both need to register to submit proposals through the Je-S system. Those applying through the Je-S system for the first time need to check that they have a Je-S account that allows them to submit proposals. This should be done well in advance of the closing date ensuring that enough time is also left for the organisation's submission process to take place.

The application process for proposals valued at over £2M and up to 5 years duration

- 4.5. Strategic Longer and Larger (LoLa) grants typically support research projects requiring longer timescales, extensive resources, or multidisciplinary approaches. Applications must address one or more of the BBSRC strategic priorities. Applications must be over £2M (100% FEC project value) and may be up to five years in duration. Although it is expected that many such proposals will be multidisciplinary and collaborative in nature, they may also address key challenges in a single discipline.
- 4.6. Strategic LoLa proposals require a two-stage process: Stage 1 – Outline Proposal and Stage 2 - Full proposal.
- 4.7. The call for Strategic LoLas will be held annually. Details of the timetable and the application and assessment process are available at <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/grants/lola/lola-index.aspx>.
- 4.8. Following the outline stage, applicants may be invited to submit a full proposal to a specified responsive mode round. Proposals will be managed through Je-S. All rules relating to responsive mode applications as described in the BBSRC Research Grants Guide also apply to Strategic LoLas e.g. eligibility, costs, etc. Feedback on the Outline Proposal will include any specific LoLa requirements. All proposals must be within the BBSRC remit. If you are unsure if your research is within BBSRC remit, please contact remit@bbsrc.ac.uk. For general enquiries on Strategic LoLa applications, contact:

BBSRC.lolagrants@bbsrc.ac.uk
- 4.9. Full proposals are assessed by one of the four responsive mode committees followed by consideration by the Strategic Lola Committee (SLC). The SLC assesses proposals taking into account the assessment by the Research Committees. In addition, the SLC evaluates the proposals in terms of the strategic importance of the scientific questions, the potential impact of the project, the training and career development potential offered by the project, and BBSRC's existing portfolio of large grants and their distribution across the BBSRC scientific remit. The SLC meets approximately one month after the committee meetings.

- 4.10. Standard BBSRC eligibility rules apply, as described in Section 3. In addition
- a) For applications falling **OUTSIDE** strategic theme(s) identified in the specific call text, applicants must have a track record of securing BBSRC funding as lead PI. This should be at least 3 competitively awarded BBSRC research grants over the past 10 years or an equivalent track record in an institute of BBSRC. Senior scientists returning to the UK from overseas must have an equivalent track record (Please note: BBSRC Research Equipment Initiative grants and studentships will not be considered as part of the applicant's BBSRC track record).
 - b) It is recognised that the research communities working within specific strategic themes are relatively small. BBSRC is particularly keen to encourage established researchers with the potential to apply their knowledge and skill to move into these areas. Accordingly, for applications within strategic themes that are identified within the specific call text, the formal track record requirements described in section a) above will not apply. However, applicants should clearly explain why the previous experience of the team provides appropriate competence to conduct the proposed project.
 - c) The principal applicants must commit at least 8 hours per week on the sLoLa project.
 - d) No applicant must be lead PI on an existing LoLa or strategic LoLa (unless the grant is in its final year).

The application process for standard grant and other proposals

Before Applying

- 4.11. An application will not be accepted for a project that is essentially the same as one currently under consideration for funding by a BBSRC committee, other research council or any other funding body. If in any doubt as to whether or not an application falls within the remit of BBSRC (<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/science/remit.aspx>), please contact BBSRC via email (remit@bbsrc.ac.uk) prior to submission. For responsive mode applications you will be required to nominate a BBSRC Research Committee to peer review the proposal. As part of this process the office retains the right to reallocate your application to a different Committee for peer review on the basis of its remit and scientific objectives: the office decision on this is final. At the end of the peer review process you will be advised of which Committee assessed your application and of the resulting funding decision.
- 4.12. Applicants must give details of any application in the same field that has been submitted to another BBSRC committee, other research council, or to any other funding body. In addition, applicants must give details of **all** related current funding from BBSRC, and current funding from other Research Councils and other funding bodies in the same field awarded in the last three years.
- 4.13. Unsuccessful BBSRC research grants proposals must not be resubmitted, unless invited by the committee. All proposals are checked in the peer review administration process to identify any uninvited resubmissions which will be rejected. Resubmissions will be considered where they have been invited by the committee, or if the proposal is substantially different in terms of objectives and/or work to be carried out. In which case permission from the committee programme staff must be obtained, and the proposal must include a covering letter declaring it as a resubmission, detailing the modifications which merit its re-consideration. Proposals for which reviewers' comments have been seen and as a result of which are then withdrawn by the applicant(s) may not be submitted to a subsequent round unless they are substantially different in terms of objectives and/or work to be carried out.

- 4.14. Unless specifically invited, or if prior approval from the BBSRC Office has been obtained, proposals that have already been considered by another research council or funding body must not be submitted. Applications with prior approval must be accompanied by a covering letter explaining the circumstances of the previous application, its outcome and the modifications subsequently made to the proposal. It is expected that substantive changes will have been made to any resubmission, which will be accepted at the discretion of BBSRC.
- 4.15. Applicants/Co-applicants must submit an interim or final report on any related BBSRC research grant (excluding those under six months old and training grants) currently held or completed in the last twelve months on which they have been the Principal Investigator. Any applications received which do not include this report will not be accepted until such a report is available. A similar sanction will also be applied if, when applying for funding as a continuation to a current research project, applicants do not submit the interim or final report from the existing project.
- 4.16. An application will not be accepted if a final report on any BBSRC research grant previously held by the principal applicant is overdue.
- 4.17. Applicants who intend to undertake research work on private or Government property must obtain consent from the owner or the organisation before submitting an application.
- 4.18. All applicants intending to use animals in their research should familiarise themselves with the funders expectations as set out in the 'Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research' document (<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/organisation/policies/position/policy/animals-in-bioscience-research.aspx>). This document will be used by peer reviewers and implementation of the principles in this guidance is a condition of receiving funding. For all research involving the use of animals, the provisions of the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 must be observed. Institutions and grant holders are responsible for ensuring that all appropriate personal and project licences required under the Act have been granted by the Home Office, and that appropriate Local Ethical Committee approval has been given. All BBSRC awards are made on the absolute condition that no work that is controlled by the Act will begin until the necessary licences have been obtained. For BBSRC funded research that involves the use of animals overseas (for example through international collaborative research) researchers and the local ethics committee in the UK should satisfy themselves that welfare standards consistent with those required under UK legislation (e.g. ASPA) and the expectations set out in the 'Responsibility in the Use of Animals in Bioscience Research' guidance are in force and maintained. Where there are significant deviations, prior approval from the funding body should be sought and agreed. Applicants proposing to use animals in experiments should make themselves aware of BBSRC's priorities in animal welfare and its commitment to developing alternative methods to reduce and/or replace animal experiments (<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/priorities/priorities-index.aspx>). These applicants should also keep themselves aware of developments in best practice, for example through familiarising themselves with publications accessible through the website of National Centre for 3Rs (<http://www.nc3rs.org.uk>). Applicants intending to use Genetically Altered mice in their research should refer to the report of GA mice working group 'Assessing the welfare of genetically altered mice' (<http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/page.asp?id=231>). Applicants intending to use Rhesus Macaques should familiarise themselves with the NC3Rs Guidelines on Primate accommodation, care and use (<http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/page.asp?id=277>). Applicants are also encouraged to contact the Centre for Macaques (CFM) at Porton Down (cfm.info@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk) to discuss their requirements, including time-lines for supply, prior to submission of their applications.
- 4.19. If the research involves human subjects, genetically modified organisms, or any other sensitive or dangerous materials, work must not commence until approval has been received from the appropriate Local Ethical Committee or other appropriate authority.
- 4.20. Research proposals are expected to comply with BBSRC's data sharing policy and all proposals must include a data management plan. For the BBSRC policy please see the statement at <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/publications/policy/data-sharing-policy.aspx>.

- 4.21. Applicants must read and abide by the principles laid down in the BBSRC Statement on Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice. This is available on the BBSRC website. (<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/organisation/policies/position/policy/good-scientific-practice.aspx>).
- 4.22. Applicants must ensure that the title, summary and main objectives of the research project are worded in such a way as to protect commercially confidential or sensitive areas (paragraphs 6.9 – 6.10 refer). Applicants must obtain the necessary clearances from any industrial or other collaborator with a commercial interest in the content of the application.
- 4.23. For the non-technical summary, applicants should describe the proposed research in a way that could be publicised to a general audience [up to 4000 chars]. The language should be accessible, with the minimum use of technical terms, using short and succinct sentences. The summary should start with a short, high level description of the purpose of the research (1-2 sentences) followed by a description of the objectives and expected outcomes and beneficiaries of the project.
- 4.24. Applicants must ensure that researchers who are named as collaborators in a research grant application provide a letter of support indicating their agreement to the proposed collaboration. This does not apply to applications submitted under the “Industrial Partnership Awards” or “Collaborations with Institutes” schemes. Any supporting documentation in relation to the involvement of collaborators and/or project partners in a research grant application must be attached via Je-S at the time of its submission.
- 4.25. Applicants and associated researchers who are planning to collect new species or sub-species or otherwise novel organisms should consider the deposition of these organisms in culture collections and should make reference to their plans for the organisms in their proposals.
- 4.26. Where published work includes the description of new species or subspecies or other novel organisms, BBSRC grant holders are expected to make these available to other researchers through deposition in a recognised culture collection. Recognised collections are considered to be those which publish catalogues of holdings and which make organisms available for sale to all UK researchers with appropriate expertise.
- 4.27. Organisms should be offered to the most appropriate UK culture collection. If no UK collection is able to accept them, they should be offered to a recognised overseas collection. If no collections will accept the organisms it is expected that the grant holders themselves should make them available to the scientific community for a minimum period of 2 years following publications of any paper describing those organisms.
- 4.28. Grant holders should note that the requirements of intellectual property rights may mean that organisms may have to be lodged in a culture collection registered for this purpose under the 1977 Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Micro organisms for the purpose of Patent Procedure.

When applying

- 4.29. There are no restrictions on the number of applicants named on a research grant application. All applicants must be actively engaged in the proposed research project and the intellectual input of each applicant to the research must be clearly defined in the case for support.
- 4.30. Unless otherwise specified in the call notice, when the application involves work at more than one eligible institution, funding for a Joint Research Project may be requested by either submitting one joint application from the lead institution or by completing separate applications from each institution.
- 4.31. With one joint application, the institution submitting the application must be the lead institution. The principal applicant must be from the lead institution and will be the person to whom all

scientific correspondence is directed. All other applicants and their affiliations must be entered on the application form.

- 4.32. With separate applications, the first named applicant on each form must be the principal applicant from that institution. One principal applicant should be identified in a separate covering letter as the lead applicant to whom all scientific correspondence will be directed. Only applicants directly working on each institution's component of the project should be entered on that institution's form.
- 4.33. Applications for Industrial Partnership Awards must comply with the IPA guidance in section 2.
- 4.34. Where the work is in collaboration with an institute or unit of another research council or with an organisation that is not a UK university, BBSRC sponsored institute or MRP, the extent and reasons for the collaboration must be explained. Details of the staff expertise and facilities that will be provided by the collaborator(s) must be included in the case for support. For collaborations with MRPs, the Director must confirm that the necessary funding for the MRP part of the collaboration will be available from the Scottish Government.
- 4.35. Any relevant interactions with other groups in the UK or abroad, relevant to the research should also be explained.
- 4.36. Applicants whose applications include the use of animals must fully justify the choice of species and numbers of all animals required, including power calculations where appropriate. Please note that this requirement applies whether or not the animals are to be purchased with funds requested within the proposal itself.
- 4.37. The case for support should be a self-contained description of the proposed work with relevant background, and should not depend on additional information. Peer reviewers are advised to base their assessment solely on the information contained within the application, and instructed not to access external links. BBSRC reserves the right to withdraw proposals that contain links to additional information which extends the case for support. Further details of the requirements for the case for support can be found on Je-S help text <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/Handbook/pages/GuidanceonCompletingaStandardG/CaseforSupportandAttachments/BBSRCSpecificRequirements.htm>).
- 4.38. Studentships may not be requested on BBSRC research grant applications. BBSRC studentships are only available through application to the various BBSRC training award schemes. Further information is available in "BBSRC Postgraduate Studentships" (http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Guidelines/studentship_handbook.pdf).

Attachments page lengths for Responsive Mode (other schemes and calls may have differing requirements but these will be specified in the call text).

Attachment	Maximum page length	Notes
Case for Support (including Track Record)	8 sides of A4	Page length includes references, figures etc. The suggested track record page length is one to two pages with the remaining pages being used for the scientific case. The overall maximum page length for the combined track record and scientific case is 8 pages.
Workplan	1 side of A4	Diagrammatic workplan representing timelines and milestones. Cannot be

		used to extend the case for support.
Pathways to Impact	2 sides of A4	Must be specific to the project and contain timelines and objectives. Further information is available at http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/kei/impacts/Pages/home.aspx
CVs	2 sides of A4 each	Required for all named applicants and named research staff only. CVs are not required for named technicians.
Justification of Resources	2 sides of A4	All resources requested (directly incurred, directly allocated and exceptions, including PI and Co-I time) must be fully justified. 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).
Data Management Plan	1 side of A4	http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/publications/policy/data-sharing-policy.aspx
Letters of support (optional, but may be required for specific schemes and calls)	none	Only directly relevant Letters of Support should be submitted
Facility form (optional, but required for some facilities)	none	If facility access is being requested, specifically for TGAC and HECToR, a technical assessment form is required. Failure to include the required forms will result in withdrawal of the proposal.
Equipment quotations (optional, but required in some instances. See relevant guidance)	none	
Final/Interim report (optional, but required for some proposals)	As per report guidance.	
Head of Department Statement (optional, but required for some schemes and calls)	none	
Proposal Cover Letter (optional, but required for some schemes and calls)	none	

Submitting applications

- 4.39. All BBSRC committees support basic, strategic and applied research. Further details of their coverage can be found on the Committee Web pages on the BBSRC Website (www.bbsrc.ac.uk/science/areas.aspx).
- 4.40. Applications can be submitted at any time and will be processed for the meeting linked to the next available closing date. A list of closing dates and their associated meetings can be found on the website <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/deadlines.aspx>. There is a minimum processing time of 8-10 weeks for an outline proposal and 18-22 weeks for a full proposal required between the receipt of an application and its consideration in committee. The appropriate meeting and Committee to consider an application will be decided by the BBSRC Office, whose decision is final.
- 4.41. A list of applications recommended for funding will be published on the BBSRC Website and linked to the 'Funding Research' page (<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/funding-index.aspx>). Notification of awards will be sent via Je-S.
- 4.42. Unless specifically requested, outlines are not required.
- 4.43. Any application with faults will be returned to your Submitter Pool via Je-S with notification of the correction. You will have five working days to make the amendments and no extension will be permitted. Applications submitted after the due date will be rejected. Any alterations to any other part of the application will also result in rejection.

Assessment of applications

- 4.44. Scientific assessment of research quality will be undertaken by UK and overseas experts in the field from academia, Government and/or industry, against all of the following criteria:
- Scientific excellence
 - Industrial and stakeholder relevance
 - Relevance to BBSRC strategy
 - Economic and Social impact
 - Timeliness and promise
 - Value for money and,
 - Staff training potential of the project (where resources are requested for postdoctoral or other research staff).
- 4.45. Applicants must nominate four reviewers who can give an independent assessment of the proposed project. Nominees must not be recent collaborators, or members of any of the applicants' own institutions. Applicants must not nominate more than one referee from an institution. Applicants may give reasons in a covering letter if there are potential referees whom BBSRC should not approach but BBSRC reserves the right to make the final selection.
- 4.46. The principal investigator will normally be given the opportunity to reply to comments from the reviewers. Responses will be considered by the Committee in making its decision. BBSRC will not enter into correspondence or discussion concerning reviewer comments prior to the meeting. Any further feedback, if available, can be requested after the committee meeting.
- 4.47. Resources requested should be described in sufficient detail for the peer reviewers to identify what is required for different aspects of the work. If costs are not sufficiently clear and well justified the Committee may cut costs before awarding the grant.
- 4.48. For Joint Research Projects where work involves more than one eligible institution, research grants will be awarded to the lead institution in respect of single applications, and to each institution in respect of multiple applications. In all cases the principal named applicant and

institution will be responsible for accounting for the expenditure of funds awarded under the individual research grants (paragraphs 4.30 - 4.32 refer).

Funding decision timetable and availability of feedback on unsuccessful applications

- 4.49. The point at which the funding decisions on responsive mode research grant applications are made is the meeting of the Committee Chairs. This takes place approximately one month following the individual committee meetings associated with a grant round. No information will be available on individual applications prior to that meeting.
- 4.50. Formal notification of the result of your application will be sent to you as soon as possible following the relevant meeting. From the date of this notification, you will have one month in which to request feedback on your application. Feedback will then be provided by email from the BBSRC Delivery Team within 3 months. Where a proposal is not assessed as meeting the 'international quality' threshold it will not be discussed in detail at the committee meeting. Only limited feedback will be available in such circumstances.

5 RESOURCES:- FULL ECONOMIC COSTING

Introduction

- 5.1. All research grants and fellowship applications are costed on the basis of full economic costs (fEC). If a grant is awarded, the Research Councils provide funding on the basis of 80% of fEC. The organisation must agree to find the balance of fEC for the project from other resources.
- 5.2. Universities and other higher education organisations will use the Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC) methodology to calculate full economic costs. This methodology has been validated by a quality assurance programme and is subject to ongoing review through arrangements put in place by the Funding Councils and the Research Councils. Other research organisations can apply for full economic costs provided that the methodology they adopt has been validated by the Research Councils as appropriate and robust. A questionnaire has been designed to determine this. Research Council institutes that are eligible to apply to BBSRC for research grants and fellowships will use a fEC methodology validated by their parent Research Council.
- 5.3. All organisations can opt to use a default rate for indirect costs, as an alternative to applying a comprehensive fEC methodology. Special dispensation estates and indirect costs can be used where an institution's research volumes are low. Universities and other Research Organisations need to obtain dispensation from full operation of TRAC to use this approach. Other research organisations must indicate when they next seek to submit a research application, a wish to adopt default rate(s). The default rate(s) are published periodically by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) on its website, and are based on averages of actual rates in use in the university sector. Non-universities must decide for themselves whether these default rates are applicable to their circumstances.
- 5.4. All costs that contribute to the full economic costs of a project may be included in fEC. There are, however, some costs that do not form part of the fEC of a project or are required to be charged in a specific way. These include:
 - Redundancy costs for research staff: provision for redundancy costs should be made in the gross Cost of Capital Employed (COCE), which is a charge within Indirect Costs.
 - The costs of maternity, paternity and sick leave for Investigators, together with other employment-related costs, are not chargeable to Research Councils (except where the Investigator is also a Research Fellow or a Research Assistant funded from the grant).
 - Depreciation on Research Council-funded equipment may not be included in Estates costs or charge out rates for use of equipment or facilities. TRAC provides guidance on how to deal with this.
 - Academic time preparing research proposals together with time spent on dissemination after a grant has ended should be charged to Research Support – an item within Indirect Costs.
 - Publication costs associated with peer reviewed journal articles and conference papers should not be included in grants as these are funded by RCUK APC publication funding.
 - Applications should be made at current (year 1) prices, inclusive of VAT and other taxes, where applicable, with no allowance for inflation. Grants that are awarded will include a sum to take account of inflation and future pay awards over the duration of the grant.

Directly Incurred Costs

- 5.5. Expenditure that is to be directly incurred for a project and only that project and is supported by an auditable record.

Audit requirements for directly incurred costs:

- 5.6. Councils expect DI staff to use timesheets so that their actual time is recorded against a project to form the basis of the costs charged. Where a person is contracted to work 100% of their time on a single project (whether they are working full-time or part-time), timesheets are not necessary as their costs can only be charged to that activity. In all other cases, timesheets or project time records are required. This includes those who may be contracted to work on two or more projects, since it is essential when charging to have a means of recording and verifying the actual time applied to each activity. Research Councils' expectations are that time recording will be undertaken regularly and continuously and that records will be verified at least monthly.
- Staff
 - Travel and subsistence
 - Equipment
 - Other costs

Staff

- 5.7. The payroll costs of all staff, full or part-time, who work on the project, and whose time can be supported by a full audit trail may be included. The need for such staff should be justified in the justification of resources attachment.
- 5.8. Where an application includes provision for named research, technical and support staff, BBSRC will normally expect to award funds at 80% of the level requested. Research Assistants, whether named or unnamed, should be requested at a salary level commensurate with the skills, responsibilities, expertise and experience necessary to carry out the proposed research activity. They should also only be employed by an eligible institution named in the application and be based at that institution.
- 5.9. It will be for those submitting the proposal to determine the extent to which market conditions make it difficult to recruit staff of appropriate quality in areas of high market demand and therefore require, an uplift from normal salary levels. Provided the uplift has been fully justified within the justification of resources attachment, BBSRC will make the award at that level. BBSRC reserves the right to provide support at a different level if it is considered appropriate.
- 5.10. Salary increments over the period of the project should be taken into account but not anticipated future pay awards. Where it is expected that named research staff will be promoted during the lifetime of the grant, provision may be made for this in the grant proposal. If a grant does not include provision for such costs, funds may be transferred from other Directly Incurred and Exceptions headings.
- 5.11. The research organisation is responsible, as the employer, for the contracts of employment of the staff concerned and, consequently, for any redundancy or other compensatory arrangements that may be required. Work permits, if required, are a matter for direct negotiation between the research organisation and the relevant Government departments. BBSRC has no restrictions or requirements on residency, nationality or citizenship in relation to research support staff funded from a grant.

Travel and subsistence

- 5.12. Travel costs for journeys that are an essential part of the investigation and are directly related to the research project can be claimed as a direct cost on the research grant. All journeys must be identified individually and be fully justified in the application. Travel and subsistence will be in accordance with an institution's own regulations.
- 5.13. Costs for attendance at conferences may be included where such attendance will be of direct benefit to the research. BBSRC will expect Research Assistants employed on the grant to have

first call on conference attendance. Conferences should, as far as possible, be individually identified in the proposal and attendance justified.

Equipment

- 5.14. Applicants should read the information on the RCUK website at http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/publications/Equipment_Guidance.pdf to which the BBSRC-specific information on the revised process is supplementary.

Equipment below £10k

- 5.15. Individual items of equipment below £10k will continue to be included in proposals for individual research projects at 80% FEC. They should be included in Other Directly Incurred costs. If VAT and/or Import Duty do not apply, a value of zero should be entered in these fields.

Equipment between £10k and £135,668 (incl VAT)

- 5.16. For single capital items of equipment between £10k and £135,668 (incl VAT) additional justification of the requirement for these items, and details of the proposed contribution to the cost of the equipment, must be provided in the justification of resources as detailed in the RCUK guidance: http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/publications/Equipment_Guidance.pdf.
- 5.17. Applicants should read carefully the section on how to apply in Je-S. Proposals must include a letter of support from the appropriate institution authority detailing the proposed contribution to the cost of the equipment. BBSRC will contribute no more than 50% of the final purchase price of any item between £10k and £135,668 (incl VAT) and will expect the research organisation to contribute the remainder. This contribution must not be conditional e.g. on the success of other applications for support, and must not be from other BBSRC grants. The peer review committee or panel will be asked to consider the proposed contribution in relation to the value for money of the proposal and this may influence the final position of the proposal in the rank ordered list. The final decision on the percentage contribution will be made by BBSRC taking into account the available capital budget.
- 5.18. For joint proposals, we expect the applicants and their research organisations to agree amongst themselves the levels of contribution from the different organisations, and the ownership and hosting arrangements for the equipment. Information should be provided in the justification of resources.

Equipment above £135,668 (incl VAT)

- 5.19. Applications for research projects seeking single capital items of equipment above £135,668 (incl VAT) must include the required business case, separately for each item. As described above, the expectation is that the equipment will underpin a range of research including both existing and potential future research projects.
- 5.20. The case for any item of equipment over £135,668 (incl VAT), and of the resources associated with its operation, sought as part of responsive mode grant applications and that have been recommended for funding by the peer review committees will be considered at the meeting of Committee Chairs. The arrangements for consideration of any such equipment sought in response to initiatives or other targeted calls will be explained in the relevant call information.
- 5.21. Proposals must include a letter of support from the appropriate institution authority detailing the proposed contribution to the cost of the equipment. Single capital items of equipment over £135,668 (incl VAT) will normally be funded at 50% of total cost and the institution will be expected to provide the remaining 50%. This contribution must not be conditional e.g. on the success of other applications for support, and must not be from other BBSRC grants. BBSRC may agree a contribution of up to 100% where the application and business case demonstrates that the instrument(s) will enhance national capability in meeting a strategically important need

by the BBSRC research community, and the case shows a clear ongoing commitment to maintain and operate it for this purpose. Final funding decisions will need to take into account the capital allocation available to the BBSRC, and may require negotiation with the institution.

- 5.22. Proposals will be considered according to the following criteria, taking into account the advice of the peer review committee:
- The quality, breadth and strategic relevance to BBSRC of the science that will be enabled by the equipment and the plans to maximise access to the equipment.
 - This may include consideration of the geographical location of the equipment in relation to the likely user community, and in relation to similar instrumentation that might be available elsewhere.
 - The proposals for the management and resourcing of access to the facility, including training where necessary.
 - Value for money - including the efficiency and affordability of running and access costs, the extent of non-BBSRC contributions, and discounts on capital purchase costs etc.
- 5.23. BBSRC may seek further information in relation to any of the above assessment criteria, or any other aspect of the case, before reaching a decision.
- 5.24. The location and support for access to these larger items of equipment is a strategic decision taken with a view to maximising the benefit to national capability. Consequently, BBSRC may decide e.g. that equipment may be co-located with existing provision elsewhere or located somewhere it considers more suitable. It may also decide to seek other proposals to host the items concerned before taking a decision

Instrument development

- 5.25. Equipment over £10k to be used for instrument development is not affected by the new rules for equipment funding. More detail on what constitutes instrument development can be found in the RCUK guidance: www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/publications/Equipment_Guidance.pdf.
- 5.26. This exception **only** applies to applications for equipment to be used in the development of new instruments. It does not cover equipment associated with the adaption of existing hardware or the development of software etc.
- 5.27. Items of equipment for instrument development may be funded at 100% FEC, although BBSRC reserves the right to request institutional contributions in exceptional circumstances.
- 5.28. Applicants should note that the guidance applies to individual pieces of equipment. *i.e.* other equipment requested on the proposal but not related to the instrument development will be subject to the new rules for equipment funding.

Additional time for assessment

- 5.29. The assessment of single capital items over £135,668 (incl VAT) may involve additional steps. Applicants may wish to take that into account in setting a reasonable start date for proposed projects and making submissions well in advance.
- 5.30. For further information please email:

Policy@bbsrc.ac.uk

Other Costs

- 5.31. Costs sought should be specified as far as possible in the proposal and justified in terms of the requirement for the research proposed. This heading may include:

- consumables
- specialist publications (not expected in institutional libraries)
- field work/fees
- computing (recurrent cost of computing dedicated to the project only, e.g. stationery supplies and software licences, not costs associated with use of central computing facilities)
- Publication costs (within the period of the grant) associated with research outputs, other than journal articles and conference papers, such as books, monographs, critical editions, catalogues etc. Full justification for such costs must be provided (*note 1*).
- consultancy fees
- recruitment and advertising costs for staff directly employed on the grant
- equipment related items, such as relocation, maintenance (external contracts/agreements) (*note 2*)
- rental/access charges for equipment costing more than £50k (specify equipment or service being used, basis of charging and required hours of usage) (*note 3*)
- equipment, complete items costing less than £10k (including VAT) only
- direct services and facilities charged on a usage basis where administrative systems efficiently and robustly support this to provide an audit trail

NOTE:- The Justification of Resources should make clear if elements of costs for a complete service e.g. glasshouse use are split between different categories of costs e.g. technicians and consumables and identify their location within the proposal. This is required to enable comparisons of different approaches using the same overall resource.

Note 1 - Publication costs: open access charges, page charges, reprints

Publication costs associated with peer reviewed journal articles and conference papers etc. must not be included in the application.

Note 2 - Cost of equipment maintenance

Applicants should include a breakdown of equipment maintenance costs. The costs claimed on the research grant must be on the basis of use for the project.

Note 3 - Rental/access charges for equipment

BBSRC will not meet rental access charges on equipment that has been funded by BBSRC or any of the other research councils. BBSRC grant holders should not be charged any element of the capital costs of research council funded equipment. Requests for rental access charges must be accompanied by confirmation that the equipment was not funded by BBSRC or another research council. How charges have been arrived at must be clearly shown.

Directly Allocated Costs

5.32. The costs of resources including services used by a project that are shared by other activities. The project's use of the resource or service will be estimated and not based on direct usage.

- Investigators
- Estates
- Other directly allocated

Investigators

5.33. This heading provides for the costs of all Principal and Co-investigators working directly on a project, if their time charged to the grant will be based on estimates rather than actual costs. Where costs are actual, auditable and verifiable – through hourly time recording; they should be included under the Directly Incurred heading. Investigator time, not cost, must be justified in the justification of resources attachment.

- 5.34. It is a requirement of the fEC costing methodology that, for any one investigator, the maximum amount of time that Research Councils will fund across all the projects they support is 1650 hours a year (equivalent to 37.5 hours a week, 44 weeks a year).
- 5.35. Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators whose time is not fully funded on other Research Council grants, but who are not paid a salary by the Research Organisation (e.g. Emeritus, honorary staff or certain fellowship holders) should show their hours attributed to the project, but with a zero salary cost request.
- 5.36. Salary increments over the period of the project should be taken into account, but possible future pay awards should not be anticipated. Where it is expected that individuals will be promoted during the lifetime of the grant provision may be made in the grant proposal.
- 5.37. If a Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator is retired, the expectation is that their involvement in a project would be covered by a contract with the Research Organisation and only estates and indirect costs associated with such time are claimable.

Estates Costs

- 5.38. These costs may include building and premises costs, basic services and utilities, and any clerical staff and equipment maintenance or operational costs that have not been included under other cost headings. They will be calculated by a research organisation and a single figure will be required at time of application.
- 5.39. Where an individual will be working away from the Research Organisation on long-term secondment for a period in excess of six months during the project, estates costs should not be charged for the period of secondment. No reduction should be made for shorter term absence.
- 5.40. Where the level of research staff effort to be awarded is different to that requested, an organisation will be required to re-calculate within 10 working days the estates and indirect costs, using the same costing basis applied to the original application. If an organisation is unable to recalculate the costs on this timescale, they will be adjusted by BBSRC in proportion to the change in staff resource.

Other Directly Allocated Costs

- 5.41. These comprise all other direct costs calculated on the basis of estimates of use when the project is running. Items that can be included within this heading are:
- Research and technical staff whose time is shared across several projects (such as pooled technicians) and is not supported by an audit record
 - Charge out costs for major facilities
 - Charge out costs for use of existing equipment
 - Animal costs (see paragraph 5.47)
 - Charge out costs for departmental technical services.
- 5.42. With the exception of charge out costs for departmental technical and administrative services the need for the resources (but not the costing basis), should be justified in the justification of resources attachment.

Animals

- 5.43. These costs may be shown as either directly incurred costs or directly allocated based on how the costs are recorded. Applications must include a breakdown of animal costs, including weekly maintenance charges in the Je-S application and the choice of species and numbers of all animals required, including sample size calculations where appropriate must be fully justified. Estimates of the number of animals needed should, where possible, take into account the likely magnitude of the effect, the required statistical significance and power, and the factors

that might affect this. Please note that this requirement applies whether or not the animals are to be purchased with funds requested within the proposal itself.

Indirect Costs

- 5.44. Non-specific costs charged across all projects, based on estimates that are not otherwise included as Directly Allocated costs.
- Support time of academics
 - Central service departments
 - Library/learning resources
 - Gross Cost of Capital Employed (COCE)
- 5.45. These should include the costs of administration, such as personnel, finance, library and some departmental services together with a charge for the gross cost of capital employed (COCE).
- 5.46. Like estates costs, indirect costs will be calculated by research organisations and a single figure will be required at time of application. Information about the derivation or justification of indirect costs and estates costs will not be required.
- 5.47. As with Estates costs, where the level of research staff effort to be awarded is different to that requested, an organisation will be required to re-calculate within 10 working days the estates and indirect costs, using the same costing basis applied to the original application. If an organisation is unable to recalculate the costs on this timescale, they will be adjusted by BBSRC in proportion to the change in staff resource.

Exceptions

- 5.48. Directly Incurred costs that are funded at 100% of fEC, subject to actual expenditure incurred, or items that are outside fEC.
- 5.49. In certain instances resources for DNA Sequencing may be supported at 100%; paragraph 2.53 refers.

Cash Limits

- 5.50. Research grants have an amount added at the time of announcement to take account of expected pay awards and inflation over their lifetime. The value awarded is the total financial commitment entered into by BBSRC and is known as the cash limit of the grant.

6 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND USE OF INFORMATION

Monitoring

- 6.1. BBSRC places increasing importance on monitoring and evaluation of the research it funds. Although it is the responsibility of grant holders to manage the programme, BBSRC reserves the right to call for periodic information on progress of the research or to visit grant holders.
- 6.2. In some circumstances, e.g. larger or longer term grants, responsive research initiatives or thematic research programmes, where there are special conditions associated with research grants, interim reports or site visits may be required.

Final Scientific Reports

- 6.3. Final scientific report must be submitted within three months of the completion of the grant period. BBSRC will not consider an application if a final report is overdue from the principal applicant on any previously held BBSRC research grant (paragraph 4.16 refers).
- 6.4. For joint research projects where grants are awarded to investigators at two or more institutions for different components of the same research project, the PI on each project is required to submit a final report for their own component to BBSRC and should also send a copy to the Lead PI. However an overall final report covering the whole project is no longer required.
- 6.5. Reports on BBSRC research grants must be submitted via the Je-S system. The report form and guidance notes are available at <https://jes.rcuk.ac.uk/>. Grant holders will automatically receive notification of when a report is due.
- 6.6. Reports must provide information on the training and development benefits resulting from the project and also information on the destination of research staff after a grant has ended. The Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers refers: <http://www.vitae.ac.uk/concordat>.

Use of information

- 6.7. BBSRC takes all reasonable steps to ensure the contents of research grant applications are treated as confidential. The application form and any associated papers sent by BBSRC to reviewers and members of its committees are sent 'In Confidence', and are accompanied by a note explaining the implications of confidentiality. Reviewers and committee members involved in assessing proposals may need to consult in confidence with colleagues about individual research grant applications. Where this happens, the confidentiality criteria must be adhered to by the consultees.
- 6.8. For successful applications scientific information will normally be transferred to the BBSRC Portfolio Analyser (<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/PA/grants/Default.aspx>) and other publicly available databases. The following details will be recorded for all BBSRC funded research grants:
 - title, and abstract of the research project
 - institution and department
 - name(s) of applicant(s)
 - name of any collaborating and/or co-funding organisation or body
 - the value of the research grant
 - start and end dates and duration of the research grant
 - committee awarding the research grant.
- 6.9. BBSRC must be notified in writing at the application stage if applicants do not wish personal data or information that could affect Intellectual Property Rights to be transferred to the databases. In these circumstances, applicants must provide alternative summaries of their research grant which can be made publicly available via the Portfolio Analyser.

- 6.10. BBSRC research grant applicants are asked to classify both their own research expertise and their proposed research grant project using a series of keywords and classification codes that are included in the application form. This information is of assistance in the selection of appropriate reviewers to assess the research grant application. It is also used in analysing the range of research funded by BBSRC.

7 CROSS-COUNCIL RESEARCH GRANT TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR PRE AND POST FEC GRANTS

- 7.1. These are linked from the 'Apply for Funding' page of the BBSRC website at: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/apply-index.aspx>
- 7.2. Research Grants awarded by the following Research Councils are made to Research Organisations on the basis of these single sets of core terms and conditions:
- Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
 - Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)
 - Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)
 - Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
 - Medical Research Council (MRC)
 - Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)
 - Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC)
- 7.3. Individual Councils may add additional conditions to the grant to reflect the particular circumstances and requirements of their organisation, or the nature of a particular grant. Acceptance of a research grant constitutes acceptance of both the core conditions and any additional conditions.
- 7.4. The Research Councils reserve the right to vary these terms and conditions as required.