

BBSRC INDUSTRIAL IMPACT FELLOWSHIP

Aim of the Scheme

The **BBSRC Industrial Impact Fellowship** scheme enables highly skilled research and technology leaders from industry to transfer their skills and experience from the industrial sector into an academic setting.

- The scheme aims to **enhance the impact** of BBSRC funded research by enabling the fellow to bring their industrial skills, management, and commercial experience to enhance collaboration and partnership between the academic and industrial sectors.
- Fellows would be expected to demonstrate how their industrial background and research will benefit the work of a **BBSRC-funded centre, institute, or academic department** with **significant** BBSRC-funded research programme, to help to achieve a step-change in the economic impact of its work.

The fellowship will fund a period of 2-4 years. The scheme is flexible with regard to the particular role proposed in a proposal, but it is expected that fellows will take on a significant 'science programme manager' role within an existing BBSRC research programme. For example, the fellows could manage innovation and business development, acting as liaison with industry partners, overseeing the development of the commercial potential of the research being pursued, etc.

It is envisaged that the scheme will be attractive to individuals working (or recently employed) in a range of research-intensive industrial sectors, for example; pharmaceuticals; biotechnology; food and drink; engineering; IT; etc.

For further details see:

www.bbsrc.ac.uk/business/people-information/industrial-impact-fellowships.aspx

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How do I apply?

Proposals can be made through the Research Councils' electronic application system (Je-S) via the BBSRC Research Development Fellowship scheme. Proposals for the fellowship will need to be made through a UK University or BBSRC Research Institute, and you may wish to start thinking now about where you want to hold the fellowship.

If you have any queries at this stage, please contact BBSRC: postdoc.fellowships@bbsrc.ac.uk or telephone 01793 413256.

2. How do I decide where to base my fellowship?

Details of BBSRC's major programmes of research and sponsored institutes are on our website at: www.bbsrc.ac.uk/organisation/institutes/institutes-index.aspx. Your proposal should be aligned to the BBSRC strategic priorities (www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/priorities.aspx) and be sited at UK research organisations with clear evidence of substantial BBSRC funding for multi-/inter-disciplinary research.

You can also use the BBSRC website to find out about the research funding held at any university, or search for particular areas of science: www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/grants/grants-index.aspx. You should make contact with departments or institutes where you may wish to be based as soon as possible, in order to start exploring possibilities.

3. Is the duration of the fellowship flexible?

Yes. BBSRC will provide funding for up to 2 years full time equivalent (FTE) or 4 years at 50% FTE activity on the proposed programme of work. In addition, BBSRC particularly encourages and favours proposals with matched funding from the host institution. This not only demonstrates significant additional commitment from the host institution but also enables a longer period award e.g. 4 years FTE with the potential for allowing delivery of real tangible outputs, therefore enabling greater impact to be made.

4. I'm an industrial project manager- are my skills relevant to the Fellowship call?

Yes. BBSRC is keen to transfer the skills of programme and project management, which are routinely found in industry, into appropriate academic settings.

5. What will I be doing as part of the fellowship?

The exact details of your role in the academic department or institute **both during and after the fellowship** need to be agreed between you and your prospective host department. You need to remember, however, that your proposal will be assessed on the basis of the case you make to be able to enhance the impact of an existing BBSRC-funded programme of research, using your industrial and commercial experience. You must therefore have a clear understanding and awareness of the portfolio of BBSRC funding within the department.

We envisage that fellows will be based within research departments alongside academic colleagues working on major BBSRC research programmes, rather than being based, for example, in university technology-transfer offices.

It is essential that you are clear about how you will integrate into the research department and the approach that you will take in your interactions with colleagues to derive maximum benefit from the fellowship. You must have a full understanding of the local management of IP and how your role will complement the work of any local Technology Transfer Office, or equivalent.

6. What will the deadline for proposals be, and when will I hear?

The scheme has an open rolling call with assessment aligned to BBSRC's [Training Awards Committee meetings](#).

The next closing date for proposals made through the Je-S system will be 6 September 2011. We will take up references in early 2012 for those proposals that make it through the initial shortlisting stage. Interviews will take place in April/May, and we would hope to announce decisions by late May 2012.

7. How will my proposal be assessed?

The award committee will be looking at how your commercial experience and management experience can make a difference to an existing programme of BBSRC funded research. We are, therefore, looking for people who will catalyse greater interconnection between academic and industry researchers and the commercial translation of research findings into innovative new products and services. In addition:

- You should have a PhD (or equivalent professional experience) together with *at least 5 years of recent industry experience working in research, technology or engineering roles.*
- You should *not* have either current or recent employment in a university or research institute.
- Matching funding arrangements by your host institution will be considered favourably.

8. Will I be able to apply for further grant funding from the BBSRC?

Yes. As an employee of the university or institute, and provided you meet BBSRC eligibility criteria for applying for grant funding, you will be eligible. Of course, you would also need the agreement from your host organisation that this was an appropriate part of your role.

9. Does it matter if I have just been made redundant?

No. We understand that at a time when UK companies are involved in significant restructuring, there is the opportunity to retain talented individuals in the wider research base for the benefit of BBSRC research. Again if you have any queries about making an application, please contact BBSRC: postdoc.fellowships@bbsrc.ac.uk or telephone 01793 413256.

10. How many awards will be available?

We envisage awarding up to 3 fellowships which can be taken up anytime before the end of 2012.

11. How can I find out more?

Full details of how to apply are on the BBSRC website. If you have any further queries, please email: postdoc.fellowships@bbsrc.ac.uk or telephone 01793 413256.

Further details relating to impact can be found on the BBSRC website at: www.bbsrc.ac.uk/science/impact/impact-index.aspx .

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