

INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR

Guidance Notes

Please read these guidance notes before completing and submitting an application to BBSRC's Innovator of the Year competition.

Overview

This annual competition celebrates the successes of BBSRC-supported scientists in delivering economic and/or social impact from their excellent research.

Application form deadline: 14 November 2012

The Scheme

Scientists (either individuals or a team) will be required to submit an application detailing their activities that have resulted in economic and/or social impact. Applications will be assessed by a panel of experienced academics, industrialists, knowledge exchange professionals and social scientists who will select the best applications to go forward to the competition final, where they will be assessed by a separate Judging Panel.

The Categories

There are three categories for the Innovator of the Year Award:

- **The Commercial Innovator Award** will recognise scientists who have derived commercial impact from their research, and could include scientists whose research has led to spin-out companies, licensing deals or new tools and technologies. This category should include those who have raised substantial private investment but are not necessarily profitable yet, as well as those who have actually generated a financial profit. For examples of economic impact, please see:
<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/science/impact/economic-impacts.aspx>
- **The Social Innovator Award** will recognise researchers who have used their research to have positive social impacts. The range of potential impacts under this category could be very broad, and some examples are provided below.
 - Advice to policymakers that leads to effective policy and decision making
 - Strategic two way public or stakeholder engagement that, for instance, informs the direction of your research and/or the actions of external groups
 - International development impacts, for instance on agricultural or healthcare practice
 - Research that has led to changes in practice in domestic agriculture, healthcare or another field
 - Engagement with civil society groups, NGOs or others around contentious areas to develop a shared understanding or a platform for advancing public discourse

- Communication of BBSRC-funded science through media channels and to a broad public audience

For examples of social impacts, please see:

<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/science/impact/social-and-policy-impacts.aspx>

- **The Most Promising Innovator Award** will recognise those scientists whose innovation, either commercial or social, is still at an early stage, but who have already demonstrated significant drive and determination to ensure that an impact will be fully realised in the future.

The overall Innovator of the Year will then be selected from the category winners. Applicants are able to suggest a category for their application in a covering letter, but should note that the final decision to assign an application to the most appropriate category rests with the BBSRC.

The Award

An award of £10,000 will be made directly to the winner of each category, with the overall Innovator of the Year receiving a further £5,000. In addition BBSRC will award £15,000 to the overall winner's department. Each award is to be spent, at the winner's discretion, to support their research, training or other activities promoting economic or social impact, providing it falls within BBSRC's sphere of interest. For team winners, the award money will be split equally among the applicants. All finalists will be invited to a high-profile event in London in March 2013, where the awards will be presented and the overall Innovator of the Year will be announced, with national publicity for the scientist(s) and their research.

Eligibility

The competition is open to all scientists funded by BBSRC; to postgraduate and postdoctoral scientists funded, in the past five years, by the BBSRC through Studentships, Fellowships or research grants; to Principal Investigators in universities who have, at any time over the preceding five years, been an applicant, or a co-applicant, on a grant funded by BBSRC, or hold a BBSRC-funded Fellowship; or to scientists in Institutes receiving strategic funding from BBSRC who, over the preceding five years, have received BBSRC funding through a Core Strategic Grant, Institute Strategic Programme Grant or research grants, or hold a BBSRC-funded Fellowship. For team entries, the majority of the 'team' should meet the preceding entry requirements.

Assessment Criteria

The overarching consideration will be the initiative that the applicant has demonstrated in recognising and seizing opportunities for effective exploitation of their BBSRC-funded research.

Whilst the extent of the economic and social impact, either realised or in prospect, will be taken into account, this will not in itself be sufficient to justify an award unless the clear commitment of the applicants to the exploitation process can also be demonstrated. The Panel will be looking for evidence of:

- identification of an opportunity for impact
- the steps taken by the innovator(s) to realise the impact
- any challenges encountered by the innovator(s) and their solutions
- the extent of the impact

The Applicant(s)

Applications may be from a single eligible individual or a team where the majority of members meet the eligibility requirements. Team entries should indicate the leading innovator of the group and their specific contribution. Where there are non-eligible individuals who have played a significant part in delivering impact, these should be referred to in the application; and their role in assisting the eligible individual(s) to deliver economic and/or social impact from their BBSRC-funded research and/or training activities should be made clear.

Applications

Applications should be submitted using the Application Form IY1, and Sections 6-8 of the Application Form IY1 must be completed in no more than 4 sides of A4 excluding annexes or appendices and using Arial 11pt font. Applicants shortlisted for the award will be invited to make a presentation to a Panel of Judges on the day before the award presentation at a high-profile event in London in March 2013.

The application form consists of the following sections:

Section 1 should contain the title of your innovation. This should be a clear, descriptive title of no more than 15 words.

Section 2 should contain the details of the individual(s) applying for the award, and for team applications, identify the lead innovator and co-innovator(s), and ensure that the majority of members meet eligibility requirements.

Section 3 should contain a brief summary of no more than 100 words describing the innovation. This summary may be made public, and should be written as such.

Section 4 should detail all support received from BBSRC over previous five years. This must include: grant reference number (where applicable); title of grant/fellowship; amount awarded. For PhD students, please include the reference of the studentship/award.

Section 5 should include details of all BBSRC grants that this innovation is connected to.

Section 6 should detail the nature of the innovation and briefly summarise the research that led to it. This section must also include details explaining how the innovation is connected to BBSRC research, the IP status of the innovation, and where relevant, the involvement of other individuals/agencies in the research.

Section 7 should set out the Innovators' role in achieving impact, articulate any challenges they might have encountered in taking their innovation through to an impact and how challenges were overcome, as well as the Innovators' *personal* role in taking the innovation forward.

Section 8 should contain information about the current and likely future impact of the innovation, both economic and social. For economic impact it should also include an understanding of the relevant market, or competition, and an estimate of the market share. For social impact it should indicate beneficiaries, audiences and how the Innovator met a common social need.

In addition to the application, please include a 2 page C.V. for all scientists named on the application, list up to 6 of your publications most relevant to the described innovation, copies of up to 6 press releases (2 pages each) related to the application, and letters of support from the Head of Department and Head of Technology Transfer Office (TTO) or equivalent. The letters of support must include confirmation that these individuals have read the application, and support its contents.

Applications not adhering to these guidance notes may be returned for amendment.

Data Protection Act 1998

The BBSRC will use information provided on the application form in processing the application and any subsequent payment.

This includes:

- registration of applications
- the preparation of material for use by assessment panels
- statistical analysis to inform the evaluation of the quality of the awards
- policy and strategy studies

Contact the BBSRC Data Protection Officer for further information.