FAQs for Collaborative Research Grants

Industrial Partnership Awards and 'stand-alone' LINK grants

These FAQs are to assist on the common questions usually asked by the community when applying for Industrial Partnership Awards (IPAs) or 'stand-alone' LINK grants. If you have any queries not covered by these FAQs or you require further information please contact Jo Holbourn on (industry.collaboration@bbsrc.ac.uk tel. 01793 413339).

Both schemes (IPA and LINK)

When can I apply for an IPA or LINK grant?

Both schemes operate within the Responsive Mode framework, so the same deadlines apply, as published at http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/deadlines.aspx.

Can I have industrial partners who are based overseas?

The primary aim of the IPA and 'stand-alone' LINK schemes is to benefit to the UK research base and UK economy. Therefore, the collaborating companies should have an R&D or manufacturing site in the UK. However, where a suitable company cannot be found in the UK, an overseas company may be used. Such collaborations are judged on a case by case basis and clear justification must be provided. You should contact BBSRC before applying to discuss any international collaborative partners.industry.collaboration@bbsrc.ac.uk tel: 01793 413339

What attachments do I need to provide when I apply?

IPAs and LINK projects require two additional attachments:

1. A **letter of support from the industry**, stating their contribution to the project and justifying the value of any in-kind contributions. It is expected in the case of multiple companies collaborating that each provides a separate letter. It is helpful if these letters also explain why the company wants to work with the specific research organisations on this specific project and how the company and sector will benefit from the research.
2. **A letter from the research institution technology transfer office** (or equivalent) stating that they are aware of the collaboration and should it be funded, and appropriate collaboration agreement will be reached. The letter should consider management of IP and its distribution.

What goes in the collaboration agreement?

BBSRC is not prescriptive in what a collaboration agreement should entail as the research institution and their collaborators are best placed to manage these agreements on a case by case basis. However, many guides and model agreements exist to facilitate these sometimes difficult negotiations. BBSRC encourage the use of the Lambert tool kit for collaborative research (http://www.ipo.gov.uk/lambert). The collaboration agreement must be submitted to BBSRC within 3 months of the proposed start time of the project.

How do I flag my application as IPA/LINK in Je-S?

The grant type can be selected via a classification option in Je-S.

- Select Council: 'BBSRC'
- Select Document Type: 'Standard Proposal'
- Select Scheme: 'Responsive Mode'
- Select Call/Type Mode: 'Responsive Mode DEADLINE'
- In the Document Menu select 'Classifications' and then 'Grant Type'
- Select the appropriate classification (Industrial Partnership Award, LINK, etc.)

You will then need to add the project partners on JeS using the 'project partner' selection, including the value and type of the contribution.

If you have any further difficulties using Je-S, please contact the Je-S Helpdesk on 01793 444164 or JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk (staffed Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm UK time, excluding bank holidays and other holidays).

Can I have more than one project partner?

You can have as many project partners as you want but they will need to be entered in the Je-S form as separate project partners, and will each need to provide a letter of support. The total contribution of all project partners must meet the 10% (IPA) or 50% (LINK) criteria.

'Stand-alone' LINK grants

What contributions do I need from industry for a LINK project?

In order for an application to be eligible under the LINK scheme, at least 50% of the full project cost must come from industry. This can be either cash or in-kind. The applicants can request the balance of the project cost from BBSRC. The balance being sought from BBSRC should be used when completing the Je-S form. If successful, 80% of the value requested on the form will be awarded by BBSRC.

Example figures:

LINK Scheme	Total cost of the whole project (academia and industry)	Minimum industry contribution (cash and / or in-kind)	Maximum amount requested from BBSRC	If successful, amount awarded by BBSRC (80% of that requested)	If successful, amount expected from institutional core funds (20% of that requested)
Percentages	100%	50%	50%	40% (80% of 50%)	10% (20% of 50%)
Example figures	£1,842,936	£921,468 Goes in the 'project partner(s)' box on the JeS form	£921,468. This is the amount used on the JeS form in the fEC boxes,	£737,174	£184,293

How are LINK applications assessed?

LINK applications are assessed within the Responsive Mode (RM) framework using the standard assessment criteria. However, referees and committee members acknowledge that LINK applications are often more applied than standard RM grants. LINK applications are ranked with all RM applications. After the ranking, LINK applications receive a significant uplift. However, grants must still be internationally competitive to receive funding.

Applications must be within BBSRC remit and must be submitted by BBSRC-eligible academics. See the Grants Guide for full details.

BBSRC has strict criteria regarding the necessary financial contributions (see above).

What are acceptable in-kind contributions?

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 addition to those normally involved;
- An allowance for reasonable overheads;
- Reasonable costs associated with any losses incurred by the industry partner.

Please note that access to data should be provided free of charge.

If you have other in-kind contributions in mind but are not clear whether they meet BBSRCs guidelines, the office will be happy to discuss them with you. It is expected that industrial partner justifies the value attributed to the in-kind contributions in their letter of support and/or that these are discussed in the Justification of Resources document.

Industrial Partnership Awards (IPAs)

How are IPA applications assessed?

IPA applications are assessed within the RM framework using the standard assessment criteria. However, referees and committee members acknowledge that IPA applications are often more applied than standard responsive mode grants. IPA applications are ranked with all RM applications. After the ranking, IPA applications receive a modest uplift. However, grants must still be internationally competitive to receive funding.

What contributions do I need from industry for an IPA project?

In order for an application to be eligible under the IPA scheme, at least 10% of the full project cost must come from industry as a cash contribution. The applicants can request the remainder of the

costs from BBSRC. The balance being sought from BBSRC should be filled in on the JeS form. If successful, 80% of the value requested will be awarded. Example figures:

IPA Scheme	Total cost of the whole project (academia and industry)	Minimum industry contribution (cash)	Maximum amount requested from BBSRC . This is added to the JeS form using the fEC boxes.	If successful, amount awarded by BBSRC (80% of that requested)	If successful, amount expected from institutional core funds (20% of that requested)
	£1,842,936	£184,293	£1,658,643	£1,326,914	£331,728

Please note, the industrial contribution is NOT 10% of the value requested from BBSRC.

Please use the available calculator to work out the amount requested form the industrial partner in relation to the amount requested from BBSRC or the total project cost.

BBSRC August 2013