

UK BBSRC-US NSF/BIO Lead Agency Pilot Opportunity Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility

- Q. What are the eligibility criteria for UK partners?
- A. UK applicants must be eligible for standard BBSRC responsive mode funding. Further information about eligibility criteria for BBSRC funding can be found in section 3 of the [BBSRC Grants Guide](#). Queries concerning eligibility of the **UK partner** should be sent to inca@bbsrc.ac.uk. BBSRC is unable to provide guidance on the eligibility of US partners.
- Q. What are the eligibility criteria for US partners?
- A. US applicants must be eligible for NSF funding. Any queries concerning eligibility of the **US partner only** should be sent to NSFBIOBBSRC@nsf.gov

Funding

- Q. What is the maximum level of funding that can be applied for?
- A. Up to £2M can be requested for applications submitted to BBSRC's responsive mode mechanism. This refers to the total BBSRC and NSF contribution combined.
- Q. Will BBSRC pay costs incurred by the US partners?
- A. No, funding for activities undertaken by US partners will be met solely by the NSF. Likewise, NSF will not fund costs incurred by the UK partners; these will be met by BBSRC.
- Q. Should costs for the US component of the project be included in the BBSRC responsive mode application?
- A. A copy of the proposed requested budget from NSF **must** be uploaded to the application in Je-S as a Letter of Support using the NSF/BIO-BBSRC budget template. This can be downloaded from the BBSRC website (see resource summary document). Costs for the UK component of the project must be requested from BBSRC by completing the relevant finance fields of the Je-S form. Costs being requested from NSF for US based investigators **must not** be entered in the JeS fields.
- Q. If NSF is the lead agency, where do I submit the budget request to BBSRC for the UK component of the project?
- A. The UK partner should complete a copy of the UK budget information form which can be downloaded from the BBSRC website. The US partner will then submit this as supplementary information to the NSF application.

Remit

Q. Do applications under the BBSRC-NSF lead agency pilot receive any uplift during the assessment process or would the applications qualify for other responsive mode schemes, e.g. New Investigator, IPA, LINK, sLola?

A. No, applications will be assessed in competition with all other responsive mode proposals and will receive no additional uplift. Responsive mode schemes such as New Investigator, IPA, sLoLa are not applicable to applications submitted to the BBSRC-NSF lead agency pilot.

Q. Which BBSRC responsive mode committee should I apply to?

A. BBSRC considers the priority areas highlighted in the pilot call to underpin research across our remit and therefore all four responsive mode committees will potentially consider proposals. Details of the committee structure can be found at <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/grants/areas.aspx>.

Q. What is the maximum duration of the BBSRC-NSF/BIO grant I can apply for?

A. For applications submitted under the scheme to BBSRC as lead agency the normal Responsive Mode rules apply, and applications should last no more than 5 years. Where NSF is lead agency applicants are advised to contact NSF for further guidance (NSFBIOBBSRC@nsf.gov).

Q. Should my application address BBSRC or NSF/BIO strategic research priorities?

A. Applications must fall at the intersection between NSF and BBSRC priority areas highlighted within the pilot call. These are:

BBSRC Strategic Research Priorities, Responsive Mode

Data Driven Bioscience

Systems Approaches to the Biosciences

Synthetic Biology (September 2015 submissions only)

NSF/BIO Solicitations

Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences Solicitation NSF 13-510

Division of Biological Infrastructure Solicitation NSF 12-567

Q. My project falls outside the highlight areas; can I still submit an application?

A. Normal rules for responsive mode applications apply to applications that do not fall within the strategic areas highlighted in the lead agency management plan. Further information can be found in the [BBSRC Grants Guide](#). Applications to the pilot are expected to fully address the priority areas. For details of other international funding opportunities see www.bbsrc.ac.uk/international.

Proposal preparation and submission

- Q. Can I request an extension of time to submit a proposal?
- A. No, for both the intention to submit and full application stages, applications received after submission deadline dates will not be accepted.
- Q. Can a previously unsuccessful BBSRC proposal be re-submitted with NSF or BBSRC as the lead-agency?
- A. No, our normal resubmission rules apply. Applicants are advised to contact the office prior to submission if they are concerned an application might be considered a resubmission. US applicants are advised to contact NSF for details of their resubmission policy.
- Q. You ask for qualifications on the Intention to Submit form, what information should I include?
- A. This information is to enable BBSRC and the NSF to make an initial assessment of the eligibility of proposed applicants. Please include details of your current position (job title, duration, status and nature of employment) and highest academic qualification achieved. Do not include copies of CVs at the intention to submit stage.
- Q. What if I have difficulty meeting the stated deadlines for ITS or full proposal submission?
- A. Please avoid problems surrounding deadlines by submitting early. ITS forms should be submitted to the proposed lead agency via the corresponding mail box. Full applications to BBSRC's responsive mode must be submitted via Je- S. BBSRC recommends that you submit to your university's research office several weeks before the deadline, to allow sufficient time for them to submit the application. We are unable to accept applications that are submitted after the stated closing time.
- Q. Is there any additional benefit in applying to the BBSRC/NSF lead agency pilot opportunity scheme over applying independently?
- A. Collaborative proposals submitted to this scheme will be reviewed alongside all other proposals received in the same funding cycle and will not undergo a special or separate review process. However, by submitting a proposal to the BBSRC/NSF lead agency pilot opportunity, you reduce the risk of 'double jeopardy' which occurs when independent applications are made to support a single project.
- Q. What factors will be considered in determining the lead agency for my proposal?
- A. Lead agency status will be decided based on several factors and determined on a case-by-case basis. Some examples of factors that may be relevant include: whether the majority of the research effort will be undertaken in the US or UK; the relative contribution of preceding work by the partners to the proposal; whether the proposal has particular strategic relevance to one agency; and where the leadership of the proposed project is based and the justification for this. All decisions on lead agency status are at the discretion of BBSRC and NSF/BIO.

- Q Will proposals be reviewed by the usual Response Mode committees or will a separate specialist panel be used?
- A When BBSRC is the lead agency, all proposals submitted will be assessed by the four responsive mode committees in the usual manner and in competition with all other proposals submitted to responsive mode. Applicants should indicate as normal which committee is likely to be best able to assess the work proposed.
- Q My question is not answered above or in the information available of the BBSRC and NSF website. What should I do?
- A If your enquiry concerns a UK-led proposal, please contact inca@bbsrc.ac.uk. For enquiries concerning US-led proposals please contact NSFBIOBBSRC@nsf.gov.