

BBSRC PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AWARDS 2009/10

BBSRC MISSION STATEMENT

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) is established by Royal Charter for three purposes:

- 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 biotech related industries), thereby contributing to the economic competitiveness of the United Kingdom and the quality of life;
- in relation to the activities as engaged in by the Council (see above) and in such manner as the Council may see fit:
 - to generate public awareness
 - to communicate research outcomes
 - to encourage public engagement and dialogue
 - to disseminate knowledge and
 - to promote advice

Introduction

BBSRC operates a Public Engagement Award scheme, offering up to £5000 to enable BBSRC-funded researchers, BBSRC-funded postgraduates, members of staff working at BBSRC-sponsored institutes and BBSRC Local Coordinators (herein termed 'researchers') to organise activities to promote public engagement in the areas of biotechnology and biological science it supports.

The objectives of the award scheme are to:

- 1) Enable and encourage researchers to undertake public engagement and dialogue
- 2) Enhance public access to research and researchers; publicising research outcomes and their implications and relevance to society
- 3) Enthuse and inspire young people in science; empowering them as future citizens to participate in public dialogue about science, and to pursue science-based careers

Research Councils are moving toward a single framework for awarding public engagement grants, but until plans have been finalised, researchers from other Research Councils should apply to their own research council's scheme or to wider Research Councils UK (RCUK) schemes.

Equal Opportunities

BBSRC welcomes applications from all sections of the community irrespective of race, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability or gender.

Enquiries should be directed as follows:

General enquiries relating to the BBSRC Public Engagement Awards:

External Relations Unit

E-mail: patrick.middleton@bbsrc.ac.uk

Telephone: 01793 413368

or send to Patrick Middleton at the following address:

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

Polaris House

North Star Avenue

Swindon

SN2 1UH

The **closing date** for applications for the BBSRC Public Engagement Awards 2009/10 is 14 January 2009.

Applicants must read the following terms and conditions before completing an application.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND OTHER INFORMATION RELATING TO BBSRC PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AWARDS

Eligibility to apply for BBSRC Public Engagement Awards

Applicants must be in receipt of a current BBSRC grant, fellowship or studentship or be a member of staff working at a BBSRC-funded institute or a BBSRC local coordinator.

Availability

BBSRC Public Engagement Awards are allocated once a year.

Duration

The award is to run public engagement activities during the period 1 March 2009 to 28 February 2010 and cannot be used to fund activities after this date.

Multiple applications

Candidates may submit more than one application for a BBSRC Public Engagement Award each year, although they may not submit multiple applications for the same activity.

Partnerships/collaborations

BBSRC encourages applicants to run activities in partnership with other individuals or organisations. These may include collaborations between researchers funded by different Research Councils, or partnership projects with artists, science educators or recognised bodies. The BBSRC-funded researcher or local coordinator must be named as the principal applicant on applications and details of collaborators/partners must be specified on the application, along with any details of financial contributions or sponsorship.

Application process

Applications can be downloaded as a word document from:

http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/society/funding/public_engagement_awards.html

All applications must be signed by the applicant and have approval by their institution. The applicant must fulfil the eligibility criteria and agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the award.

Completed applications should be sent to Dr Patrick Middleton at:

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
Polaris House
North Star Avenue
Swindon
SN2 1UH

Or patrick.middleton@bbsrc.ac.uk

The closing date for receipt of applications is 14 January 2009. Applications must be received by 12pm. We regret late applications will not be accepted.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome and level of the award by the 20 February 2009. Successful awards will also be listed on the BBSRC website.

Allocation process

All applications are judged by an independent panel, composed of professional science communicators, media specialists and science educationalists.

After the judging, applicants may request a list of panel members.

Application assessment criteria

Priority will be given to applications that;

- Address the theme of evolution
- Engage hard-to-reach groups, in particular ethnic minorities, low income families, long-term unemployed and people with disabilities
- Encourage public groups, particularly adults, to enter into dialogue with researchers
- Engage young people with contemporary research to enhance their experience of science, encouraging more to pursue science studies beyond 16

All applications will be judged against the following criteria and should demonstrate:

- An innovative approach that will be attractive to the target audience
- Targeted and accessible to the chosen audience
- Topical and relevant to the target audience
- An opportunity for dialogue with the audience
- Realistic costings
- Value for money, ensuring that activities are delivered in the most efficient and economical way
- Exploration of relevance to research, rather than information provision
- Realistic evaluation commensurate to the project

In the event of close competition between applications, the following criteria will also be taken into consideration:

- Evidence of innovative partnerships/collaborations to reduce costs
- Development of reusable resources

Applications will not be accepted for the purchase of general apparatus, including computers, cameras etc, unless it is shown to be integral to the application and loaning of the apparatus is not appropriate.

Financial arrangements

Awards will be paid to the institution that employs the applicant. The awards are cash limited and will not be supplemented during the course of the award. Institutions must ensure that the funds

awarded are used to support the project as approved by the BBSRC. Funds cannot be used to run activities after 28 February 2010 and any expenditure incurred after this date will not be met by BBSRC.

Awards of up to £2000 will be paid by BACS in March 2009.

Awards of £2001-£5000 will be paid on the basis of 80% in March 2009 followed by the remaining 20% on receipt of an expenditure statement, signed by the recipient of the award and an administrative officer of the institution and returned to BBSRC within three months of completing the award. This expenditure statement should be cross-referenced with the cost breakdown detailed on the application form. Any monies remaining from the award must be returned to BBSRC and cannot be used for subsequent activities.

Reporting progress

Applicants are required to complete and return a final report upon completion of the award by 28 February 2010. The proforma report form will be sent to the applicant when the award is confirmed. A section of this report will be made publicly available on the BBSRC website.

BBSRC will use the final reports to inform the impact of the awards and for planning for future years. The information provided will not be shared by third parties or published without prior consent of the recipient of the award, unless otherwise indicated on the report.

Applicants should also submit copies of any materials generated through the award, press cuttings and any photos from the project. Permission should be sought from participants to use these images in BBSRC publications and on the BBSRC website.

Failure to return a final report and expenditure statement will result in ineligibility to apply for future awards for public engagement from the Research Councils.

Acknowledgement of support and copyright

The award from BBSRC must be acknowledged in all promotional material associated with the activity and any resource materials generated. The copyright of written materials produced and published through the award are owned by the applicant's institution. Copies of all written materials should be sent to BBSRC after completion of the activity and BBSRC retains the right to use these materials in their own Science in Society activities on the understanding that they will notify applicants of their intended use.

Activities and materials developed through the award may not be sold for profit for the period of the grant. Any future commercial use must be with the approval of BBSRC.