



## KEY FEATURES OF UKRI-BBSRC COLLABORATIVE TRAINING PARTNERSHIPS

This Annex details the key features of the proposed Collaborative Training Partnerships scheme:

1. Competitive assessment of training strategy and environment
2. Concentration of doctoral training into up to **10** CTPs
3. Cohort management
4. Capacity building across sectors and industries of the UK Bioeconomy
5. Partnerships will work to a Portfolio Agreement
6. Placements
7. Evidence of around 20 percent of the funding (cash or in-kind) to be supported by the non-academic partner(s) and other non-Research Council sources
8. An accountable governance structure to enable effective management and communication and a significant role for BBSRC in strategic engagement and post-award monitoring
9. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan
10. Partnerships to provide administrative support

*In addition to the ten key features please refer to the UKRI Statement of Expectations for Doctoral Training<sup>1</sup>, the Research Council Common Terminology for Postgraduate Training<sup>2</sup>, and the UKRI Joint Vision for Collaborate Training<sup>3</sup> for further information.*

<p><b>i. Competitive assessment of training strategy and environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We recognise the value of a competitive approach in driving up standards, as against using an algorithmically-based allocation route, and will continue to operate a competitive assessment process, including interviews, for the second call for CTPs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ii. Concentration of doctoral training in up to 10 CTPs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The indicative number of approximately 10 CTPs will allow sizeable investments to be made in each Partnership.</li> <li>• The concentration of funding on major training centres provides CTPs with the flexibility to use the training grant in a more strategic way and encourages joined-up thinking and sharing of best practice within or between Partnerships.</li> </ul>
<p><b>iii. Cohort management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current good practice advocates that doctoral training is most effective when delivered in viable cohorts.</li> <li>• We expect partnerships to commit to training cohorts of students and partners should consider the size of the cohort they could accommodate to build critical mass and enable doctoral candidates to train together.</li> <li>• Applicants are expected to outline their strategy for enabling optimal doctoral candidate interaction and developing a cohort identity across all partners.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/files/legacy/skills/statementofexpectation-revisedseptember2016v2-pdf/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/files/legacy/skills/rcukcommonterminologyforpostgraduatetraining2013-pdf/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/files/legacy/skills/rcdvision-pdf/>

<p><b>iv. Capacity building across sectors and industries of the UK Bioeconomy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UKRI-BBSRC CTP competitions allow industry to bid for training grants to deliver leading edge, frontier bioscience research and innovation training across the remit of UKRI-BBSRC and address strategic bioscience skills and capacity challenges faced by their sector.</li> <li>• The requirement that Partnerships integrate businesses of all sizes, regions and across the supply and distribution chain will help identify and address short and long-term skills challenges faced by sector and industry employees.</li> <li>• Collaboration between CTPs and other training investments made by UKRI, institutions and other funders will be encouraged to facilitate interdisciplinarity.</li> </ul>
<p><b>v. Institutions will work to a Portfolio Agreement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first BBSRC CTP competition required Partnerships to submit a Portfolio Agreement which was assessed as part of their bid.</li> <li>• The Portfolio Agreement outlines how the CTP will align its research training to UKRI-BBSRC's priority research areas. It outlines a number of key aspects of PhD training and programme management that Partnerships commit to providing (e.g. the provision of a 3-18 month placement for the student, appropriate governance arrangements for the partnership, supervisor training, etc.).</li> <li>• The Portfolio Agreement forms the basis of our Partnership 'contract' with the CTPs for the provision of excellent research training and is also used for on-going dialogue and monitoring.</li> <li>• We will continue to use Portfolio Agreements as part of the assessment process for CTPs and in our on-going strategic engagement and monitoring activities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>vi. Placements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placements continue to be a key feature of CTP2 and UKRI-BBSRC expects all doctoral candidates on a CTP programme to undertake a placement.</li> <li>• All placements should be developed in collaboration between the partners with input from the doctoral candidate</li> <li>• Placements can be in the form of research placements (3-18 months duration) or used more flexibly for experiential learning of professional skills for business and/or entrepreneurship</li> </ul>
<p><b>vii. Evidence of around 20 percent of the funding (cash or in-kind) to be supported by the non-academic partner(s) and other non-Research Council sources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes administrative resource, stipend top ups and cohort training.</li> <li>• Contributions may be a mix of cash and in-kind contributions.</li> <li>• All financial and in-kind contributions and their justification must be detailed in the Portfolio Agreement for the Panel's assessment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>viii. Governance structure and significant and enhanced role for UKRI-BBSRC in strategic engagement / post-award monitoring</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A governance structure that enables effective decision making and engagement will all relevant stakeholders must be in place to ensure UKRI-BBSRC receives value for money in the delivery of PhD training.</li> <li>• A key element in ensuring that institutions keep to the commitments made in their Portfolio Agreements will be on-going strategic engagement from UKRI-BBSRC and its nominees.</li> <li>• The current CTPs host visits from UKRI-BBSRC at their Management Board Meetings. In addition, CTP leads, and operational managers will be invited to attend a Training Partnership Forum hosted by UKRI-BBSRC. The intention is to continue these strategic engagement activities.</li> </ul>

**ix. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan**

- Inclusivity is a core feature of CTP2 and UKRI-BBSRC expects all Partnerships to provide a dedicated two-page equality, diversity and inclusion plan detailing their strategy for the wide participation of doctoral candidates from all backgrounds, as well as the support systems in place to protect their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

**x. Partnerships to provide administrative support**

- Partnerships are expected to provide an appropriate level of FTE support to lead and manage the CTP activities and gather evidence of impact as required for the number of studentships they are allocated.
- Match funding of studentships into the CTP is encouraged but is not a mandatory requirement.