

BBSRC-NSF/BIO Lead Agency Opportunity 2021

Further Guidance

How to apply

To provide an 'Intention to Submit' to BBSRC (UK-led applications only)

Apply via: Je-S (Joint electronic submission) system

1. Log in the Joint Electronic System (Je-S)
2. Select Council: BBSRC
3. Select Document Type: Outline Proposal
4. Select Scheme: Standard Outline
5. Select Call/Type/Mode: 2021 NSF/BIO EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
6. Click Create Document

The Outline call in Je-S **will open June 30th 2021 and close 22nd September 2021**

- **The ITS must be created using the template on the BBSRC [webpage](#).**
- **In the JeS form you must include '2021BBSRC-NSF/BIO' in the title.**
- Only the ITS and the completed JeS form are required. You can input **n/a** to mark the sections 'Objectives', 'Impact Summary' and 'Summary' of the JeS form as blank.
- No CVs are necessary at this stage
- No Impact summary is needed at this stage.
- Your ITS and JeS form will be shared with NSF/BIO via BBSRC's secure extranet.

To provide a full stage proposal to BBSRC (UK-led applications only)

Full proposals are by invitation only following ITS feedback. UK-led proposals should be submitted to BBSRC's Responsive Mode 22RM1:

<http://bbsrc.ukri.org/funding/apply/deadlines/>. Please ensure you include a US budget form (included in additional docs).

Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility

Q. What are the eligibility criteria for UK partners?

UK applicants must be eligible for standard BBSRC responsive mode funding. Further information about eligibility criteria 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?

US applicants must be eligible for NSF funding. Any queries concerning eligibility of the US partner only should be sent to NSFBIOBBSRC@nsf.gov

Q. Are applicants based in other countries eligible to apply?

A-No, only UK and US based applicants are eligible.

Funding

Q. What US cost information is required on the Intention to Submit form>

You should provide the resource request from NSF (total amount payable) for the US-based group in the ITS template

Q. On the Intention to Submit form section Combined total (in GBP; state conversion rate used) should this be the fEC or the sum of what the grant bodies will pay (ie UK costs 80% BBSRC (GBP) + US costs NSF/BIO (USD))?

The combine total cost should be UK 80% costs + US costs.

Q. What is the maximum level of funding that can be applied for?

Up to £1.6M total funder contribution (equivalent to 2M fEC) 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?

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. I am writing an Intention to Submit, what budget information is required?

Costs at this stage are indicative. Only headline estimates are required from US and UK members of the proposed collaboration. Please ensure US costs are in USD and UK costs are in GBP.

Q. At full stage, should costs for the US component of the project be included in the BBSRC responsive mode application?

A copy of the proposed NSF budget request from the US members of the collaboration must be uploaded to the application in Je-S as a Letter of Support using the budget template. This can be downloaded from the BBSRC website. Costs for the UK component of the project must be requested from BBSRC by completing the relevant finance fields of the Je-S form as normal. Costs being requested from NSF for US based investigators must not be entered in the JeS fields. A US budget justification should also be included as a Letter of Support.

Q. If NSF is the lead agency, where do I submit the budget request to BBSRC for the UK component of the project?

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. A UK Justification of Resources should also be included.

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

For applications submitted under the scheme to BBSRC as lead agency the normal Responsive Mode rules apply. Projects are typically 3-4 years and should last no more than 5 years. Where NSF is lead agency applicants are advised to contact NSF for further guidance (NSFBIOBBSRC@nsf.gov).

Remit

Q. Which BBSRC Responsive Mode Committee should I apply to?

The research areas in the notice of intentions are cross-cutting and therefore all four responsive mode committees will potentially consider proposals. Details of the committee structure can be found at <http://bbsrc.ukri.org/funding/grants/>. If you are unsure which would be the most appropriate committee please contact us.

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

No. Applications to the lead agency scheme are expected to fully address one or more of the eligible research areas (Biological Informatics, Microbes and the Host Immune System, Quantum Biology and Synthetic Cell), BBSRC and NSF/BIO remit, and the requirements of participating NSF programs.

Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences Solicitation NSF 21-509

Division of Biological Infrastructure Solicitation NSF 21-502, NSF 21-501.

Division of Integrative Organismal Systems NSF 21-506.

For details of other international funding opportunities see <https://bbsrc.ukri.org/research/international/>.

Q. What factors will be considered in determining the lead agency for my proposal?

Lead agency status is decided on a case-by-case basis. Usually, this is determined by whether the majority of the research effort will be undertaken in the US or UK. Some examples of other factors that may be relevant include: 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 submitted to BBSRC be reviewed by the usual Response Mode committees or will a separate panel be used?

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.

Other

Q. Do I need to fill in the Je-S sections that overlap with information already submitted through the ITS template?

No, you do not need to input that information. You can write 'n/a' to validate Je-S requirements.

Q. Are CVs and impact summary needed at this stage?

No, only the ITS template is needed at this stage.

Q. Can I be involved in more than one application?

We recommend investigators focus on a single ITS submission as PI or Co-I. If multiple submissions are received, the agencies reserve the right to limit applicants to a single proposal.

Q. Can I request an extension of time to submit a proposal?

No, for both the intention to submit and full application stages applications received after submission deadline dates will not be accepted.

Q. Will applicants in the US need to have a JeS account in order to apply?

No. US investigators do not need to be included on the JeS form at either ITS or full application stage.

Q. Can a previously unsuccessful BBSRC proposal be re-submitted with NSF or BBSRC as the lead-agency?

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. What if I have difficulty meeting the stated deadlines for ITS or full proposal submission?

Please avoid problems surrounding deadlines by submitting early. BBSRC recommends that you submit to your university's research office well 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. When is the full submission deadline?

Full submissions for UK-led proposals should be submitted to BBSRC's Responsive Mode 22RM1. The exact 22RM1 deadline is currently TBC but is expected in January 2022.

Q. Is there any additional benefit in applying to the BBSRC/NSF lead agency opportunity over applying independently?

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 opportunity, you reduce the risk of 'double jeopardy' which occurs when independent applications are made to both agencies to support a single project.

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

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 and LINK are not applicable to applications submitted to the BBSRC-NSF lead agency pilot.

Q. Will BBSRC share information I submit to the call with NSF?

Yes. As outlined in the call text and lead agency management plan, for the purposes of managing the administration of the lead agency scheme both ITS and full stage applications will be shared between BBSRC and NSF/BIO staff.

Q. What happens if my proposal is recommended for funding?

If successful, applicants will need to submit a copy of their proposal to the non-lead agency before funding can be awarded. No further peer review will be undertaken. Successful proposals are anticipated to start late 2022- early 2023 but may be delayed.

Q. My question is not answered above or in the information available of the BBSRC and NSF website. What should I do?

Please contact inca@bbsrc.ac.uk

Further information

See our full terms and conditions on the UKRI website.

See our grants guide

Please provide as much information as possible in your email to ensure a rapid response. For opportunity-specific queries please email: inca@bbsrc.ukri.org

For Je-S system queries please email: JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk

UKRI BBSRC carries out the processing of personal data in accordance with the UK Data Protection Act 1998/General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) www.ico.org.uk.

The information you provide for the 2021 BBSRC-NSF/BIO Lead Agency Opportunity will only be used by BBSRC and its partner, NSF for the purpose of managing the call.

The personal data you have provided will be Name, Research Organisation, Job Title and Email address. Information gathered will be used by BBSRC to manage the ITS stage and provide feedback.

The personal data provided will be retained on our systems for as long as is required to carry out processing for the purposes outlined above.

By providing your information you are consenting to its use as detailed above. You can access a copy of the UKRI Data Protection Policy <https://www.ukri.org/files/termsconditions/ukri-data-protection-policy-pdf/>