

## Research Grants - Eligibility

This document provides a guide to determining individuals' eligibility to apply for BBSRC grants and should be read in conjunction with the document "BBSRC Research Grants".

**If there is any doubt about the eligibility of either the institution or the applicants, advice can be sought from Margaret Henstock, BBSRC Secretariat and Liaison Branch. e-mail [margaret.henstock@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:margaret.henstock@bbsrc.ac.uk)**

### 1. Criteria

"At the time of the application, applicants must be resident in the UK and hold an appropriate appointment at an eligible institution for at least the duration of the application". (Paragraph 1.8 of BBSRC Research Grants).

This statement applies to all institutions or organisations applying for BBSRC research grant funding. In determining eligibility the following questions must be addressed for all applications:

- Is the institution eligible to receive BBSRC research grant funding?
- Is the institution eligible to receive BBSRC research grant funding from the category to which the applicant(s) has applied?
- Are both principal and co-applicants eligible in their own right to receive BBSRC research grant funding from the category to which they are applying?

### 2. Eligibility of an Institution

To receive BBSRC research grant funding the institution must appear in the category to which the applicant has applied.

Category	Type of BBSRC Research Grant	Eligible Institution(s)
1A	Responsive Research Grants (RRG)	UK Universities and Colleges and academic analogues approved by BBSRC. BBSRC sponsored institutes (including Horticultural Research International) up to a defined financial level set by Council.
1B	Responsive Research Initiatives (RRI)	UK Universities and Colleges and academic analogues approved by BBSRC. BBSRC sponsored institutes (including Horticultural Research International) up to a defined financial level set by Council.
2	Thematic Research	UK Universities and Colleges and academic analogues approved by BBSRC. BBSRC sponsored institutes (including Horticultural Research International) up to a defined financial level set by Council, other research Council establishments SABRIs, GREs, agencies and UK not-for-profit research organisations. For specific programmes or initiatives, BBSRC can open funding to other, similar UK research organisations, if by doing so the specific aims of the research can be met and

thereby better fulfil BBSRC's mission.

3	LINK	Open to all LINK participants including industry, with 50% of project funding coming from the private sector and 50% from public sector sponsors (Research Councils and relevant Government Departments).
4	Contracts	Open

### 3. Eligibility of Applicants and Co-Applicants

**The eligibility criteria are the same for both applicants and co-applicants.** There are a range of factors relating to the status, employment, duration of appointment etc. of all applicants that must be taken into account before BBSRC will accept an application.

*Applications can be accepted from:*

- **senior researchers and academics** who hold indefinite appointments that continue for the duration of the application.
  - *for universities*, these are normally lecturers, senior lecturers, readers and professors
  - *for BBSRC sponsored institutes*, these are normally researchers at Band 5 or above.
- **senior researchers who do not hold indefinite contracts**, such as self-funded or visiting researchers who may have titles such as 'Honorary' or 'Emeritus'. In these cases the applicant must have the agreement of the host institution that their position at the institution will continue for the duration of the application and that full research facilities and support will be provided throughout. This agreement must be signed by the Head of Department in whose department the research will be carried out or by the Director of the BBSRC sponsored institute and must accompany the application
- **holders of externally awarded fellowships**, which includes researchers holding fellowships awarded by award-giving bodies such as BBSRC, the Royal Society, the Wellcome Trust and the other Research Councils. These fellowships are awarded competitively and are portable ie. they can be held by the fellow at any eligible institution. If the fellowship does not extend for the duration of the application, the fellow must obtain written agreement from the host institution that it will underwrite the costs of the fellow's salary and provide research facilities for the outstanding period. This agreement must be signed by the Head of Department in whose department the research will be carried out or by the Director of the BBSRC sponsored institute and must accompany the application
- **holders of internally awarded UNIVERSITY fellowships**, which are fellowships that have been awarded by a university and held by the fellow in that university. They may have titles such as "Research Fellow" or "Senior Research Fellow". This type of fellowship need not be portable, **but it must have been awarded competitively**. The fellow must also be of sufficient seniority and equate to lecturer or above. If the fellowship does not extend for the full duration of the application, the fellow must obtain written agreement from the host university that it will underwrite the salary costs of the fellow and provide research facilities and support for the outstanding period. This agreement must be signed by the Head of Department in whose department the research will be carried out and must accompany the application.
- **researchers whose research is funded by a non-eligible organisation, but who are based in an eligible institution and employed on indefinite contracts by the eligible institution, and where the employing institution accepts long-term employment liability for the researcher.** Applicants who come within this category must be referred to Margaret Henstock, Secretariat and Liaison Branch for confirmation of eligibility before an application can be accepted.
- **eligible researchers who are about to take up an appointment in any of the above groups at an eligible institution.** Applications can be accepted from eligible researchers before the start date of their employment. A supporting letter must be provided by the host institution stating that the applicant will be commencing their appointment on or before the start-date of the grant and that the appointment will last for

the duration of the application. Applicants in this category should contact the appropriate Programme Manager at BBSRC before submitting an application.

- **university research assistants at RA2 level and above.** In some instances applications may be accepted from researchers in this category. All cases where applicants are at RA2 level must be referred to Margaret Henstock, Secretariat and Liaison Branch for confirmation of eligibility.
- **new investigators**, (see also paragraph 2.9 of BBSRC Research Grants) who apply under the 'New Investigators' scheme must:
  - be within 3 years of their first permanent appointment at the time of the cut-off date for submission to the grant round in which the application will be assessed
  - not have received grant funding of more than £15k per annum for 3 years from any source
  - not have received a grant of more than £45k for equipment during the previous 3 years from any source, other than funds awarded by the host institution
  - be the sole applicant, unless the co-applicant is from a discipline other than biological sciences. If the New Investigator is from a non-biological science, a co-applicant from the biological sciences may be included. Non-biological sciences include physics, chemistry, mathematics, IT, engineering etc.

#### Notes for New Investigators

- a) Only one application to each grant round is permitted and New Investigator applicants may not submit another type of grant application as the principal applicant to the same BBSRC grants round.
- b) Researchers may be awarded only one New Investigator research grant.
- c) New Investigator applicants who have been co-applicants, but not principal applicants, on successful grant applications are eligible for the scheme
- d) Holders of research fellowships such as BBSRC and the other research council Fellows, Royal Society Fellows, Lister Fellows etc. are **not eligible** to apply to this scheme. This is because a fellowship is not a permanent appointment

#### ***Applications will not be accepted from:***

- **research assistants, technicians and other researchers**, whose salaries are funded from short-term projects or research council grants. Researchers in this category cannot apply in their own right as an applicant or co-applicant
- **recognised researchers** cannot apply in their own right but they will be given appropriate recognition for the duration of the grant on which they are named as the Recognised Researcher, if awarded. (See paragraphs 1.10-1.11 of BBSRC Research Grants)
- **holders of internally awarded fellowships at institutions other than universities.** Researchers who are holders of fellowships that are not portable or awarded competitively and have been awarded, funded and held at the awarding institution cannot apply in their own right as an applicant or co-applicant for BBSRC research grant funding.
- **researchers who are employed by an eligible institution, but whose appointment is linked to the provision of their salary from a non-eligible source.** All cases where applicants appear to be within this category must be referred to Margaret Henstock, Secretariat and Liaison Branch for confirmation of eligibility.

#### **4. Applications from other Eligible Research Institutions and Organisations**

The eligibility of researchers from these organisations generally follows that of UK universities, BBSRC academic analogues and BBSRC institutes, but if their grades and appointments may not be easily recognised by BBSRC, the organisation is advised to consult Margaret Henstock before submitting an application to clarify applicants' eligibility.

#### **5. Enquiries**

All enquiries about eligibility should be made to:

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BBSRC, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon SN2 1UH.  
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