

BBSRC Innovation Fellowship Fund (IFF)

Guidance Notes for Applicants

The Innovation Fellowship Fund (IFF) is aimed at supporting the mobility of early career researchers (ECRs) and industrialist researchers (postdoctoral researchers, and those early in their career who are equivalent to BBSRC David Phillips Fellows or equivalent from industry) to new environments, including both between sectors and between countries. Successful proposals will bring together talented people with different skills to foster partnerships to translate research outcomes in economic outputs.

The fund is aimed at ECRs who have already identified areas for knowledge/skill exchange with an industry partner(s), and industrialists who are looking to develop links within our research environment. Funding will be provided to support the exchange of people from the University to industry partner, and vice versa.

Innovation Fellowships will be on a part-time or full-time basis. Proposals will have a maximum duration of 6 months and grant contribution up to £40k.

A proportion of the funding available (25%) has been ring-fenced to support non-British citizens to move to, or remain in, the UK.

Aims of the fund:

- Showcase academic talent to identify opportunities for career development and recruitment into industry, and vice versa
- Facilitate the exchange of ideas between academic and industry partners
- Encourage the translation of our bioscience research base
- Support the creation of new products, processes or services
- Provide access to external expertise to enrich existing research programmes
- Consolidate and extend existing relationships

Anticipated outcomes:

- Retention of UK and non-UK academic and industrial expertise through recruitment
- Enhanced career opportunities for ECRs, including industrial appointments and prestigious external fellowships
- Generation of research impact by applying academic expertise to commercial challenges
- Greater understanding of industry research priorities for collaboration
- Development of long term collaborations between the University and industry partners

Eligibility

Applications are only permitted for projects focused on the exploitation/application of knowledge or technology that falls under BBSRC remit. Please ensure an NDA is in place before disclosing any unpublished research to industry partners.

If you have any queries regarding partner organisation eligibility, please contact Naomi Chandler (naomi.chandler@manchester.ac.uk). Please note that we cannot support projects with spin out companies from our own organisation.

Funding Arrangements

Funding is intended for those projects where a company will contribute actively to the project through the provision of resources (including facilities, equipment, consumables and technical expertise).

Industry partners will be expected to provide a letter of support with clarity on the next steps should the Industry Secondment project be successful, as well as direct financial and/or in-kind contribution to the project.

The BBSRC IFF Panel expects University staff to negotiate with the partner organisation a deal which minimises the support necessary from the BBSRC IFF. The value to the partner and the University (in generating research publications, ongoing collaborations, IP etc.) must be taken into account.

Spend Completion Date

The project period runs from 1st April 2018 to 28th Feb 2019; projects must begin and end within this timeframe. **All project expenditure must be completed by the end date stated in the application form.** Any unspent funds will be returned to the Business Engagement Team for reallocation.

Costing & Eligible Costs

Innovation Fellowships are expected to be costed on a full Economic Costing basis. Eligible costs include:

Directly Incurred:	staff costs equipment and consumables travel and subsistence training and development (maximum £1k)
Directly Allocated:	PI time (including indirect costs and estates)

BBSRC IFF projects are exempt from the minimum PI/Co-I contribution of 20%

The maximum IFF grant contribution will be £40k.

Secondments in

Where the fellowship involves the secondment-in of a member of staff from an industry partner, the company will be expected to cover the staff costs of their employee. Eligible costs will be those such as provision of office and lab space for the secondee; staff time of University

employees allocated to support the secondment. The PI's School/Division is responsible for providing appropriate office and lab space for the secondee.

Secondments out

Where the fellowship involves the secondment-out of a member of University staff, eligible costs will include secondee staff costs (excluding indirect costs and estates), travel and subsistence and small budgets for equipment and consumables (up to £1.5k).

Project Budget:	Project costs must be discussed with RSMs and entered into the budget page of the application form.
Total Project Costs:	These are those costs directly associated with the project, in the eligible cost headings outlined above. These should include all staff costs, estates, indirect costs, travel and subsistence and consumables.
Company Contributions:	These are the direct (invoiceable) company contributions to the total project.
In-kind Costs:	These may include staff time, access to equipment or facilities, provision of consumables.

Assessment of applications

Applications will be assessed by the University's BBSRC IFF Panel. Applicants should remember to write their proposals for a non-specialist audience.

Assessment will take into account:

- The benefits to the partner, the University, and the staff involved
- Quality and quantity of knowledge/skills exchanged
- The likelihood that the project plans will deliver the expected outputs and benefits
- Potential for follow on funding and/or in-kind contributions

Application Submission

Call for Proposals: Opens on Tues 12th December 2017, closing deadline 12 noon on Thurs 1st March 2018.

Please note that applications will be evaluated by the BE team for content and eligibility before being sent to the IFF Panel for consideration. **You are strongly advised to contact Naomi Chandler, for advice and guidance at least one month prior to submitting your application:**

Naomi Chandler	Business Engagement Officer
0161 306 0554	naomi.chandler@manchester.ac.uk

All projects should be costed (100% fEC) and input onto the Research Management System (RMS). RSS will issue the RMS number to the PI and BE Team.

Once signed by Head of School/Division and collaborating company (ies), completed applications should be submitted with the project budget sheet and letter(s) of support.

Electronic submissions are acceptable for application deadline purposes but a signed paper application and letter(s) of support should follow (signed and dated by all partners) no later than seven days after the deadline date.