

Nurturing emerging talent in industrial digital technologies for biomanufacturing and life science

Innovation Placements and Innovation Fellowship Fund - Round 2 (IPIFF2)

Guidance Notes for Applicants

The Innovation Placements and Innovation Fellowship Fund Round 2 (IPIFF2) is aimed at supporting the mobility of early career researchers (ECRs) and industrialist researchers (postdoctoral researchers, Fellows, or equivalent from industry) to new environments, including both between sectors and between countries where COVID-related restrictions allow. Successful proposals will bring together talented people with different skills to foster partnerships to translate research outcomes into economic, environmental or societal benefits.

Funding will be provided to support the exchange of people from the University to external partners, and vice versa. This includes Industrialists who are looking to develop links within our research environment or ECRs who have identified areas for knowledge/skill exchange with external collaborators including industry, NGOs, charities, and local government agencies.

- Innovation Placements are for PhD students who have just submitted their thesis, or will have submitted by the time the placement takes place, and want to undertake a placement outside the university.
- Innovation Fellowships are for early career researchers in academia who wish to undertake a placement in industry or those in industry who want to spend time at The University of Manchester.

Proposals will have a maximum duration of 6 months, on a part time or full-time basis and seek a grant contribution of up to £20,000.

Aims of the fund:

- Showcase academic talent to identify opportunities for career development and recruitment beyond academia, and vice versa
- Facilitate the exchange of ideas between academic and external 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:

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

Eligibility

Successful projects are expected to meet two main criteria:

1. Utilise expertise in Industrial Digital Technologies, including: Industrial Internet of Things, Robotics, Automation, Additive Manufacturing, AI, Big Data and Data Analytics, Simulation, Augmented and Virtual Reality, and Cloud-based Platforms
2. Align to the BBSRC research interests (<https://bbsrc.ukri.org/research/>) including:

- **Bioscience for sustainable agriculture and food**

BBSRC aims to encourage a whole food-system approach for agriculture and food security research, to deliver productive, resilient and sustainable food and farming. This encompasses six focus areas:

- Sustainable agricultural systems
- Crop & farmed animal health
- Food safety and nutrition
- Reducing waste
- Understanding and exploiting genomics
- Precision agriculture and smart technologies

- **Bioscience for health**

To 'improve health and wellbeing across the life course, reducing the need for medical and social intervention'. Four key challenges:

- Lifelong Health
- Nutrition for Health
- One Health
- Biotechnology for Health

- **Exploiting new ways of working**

- **Frontier bioscience**

- **Industrial biotechnology and bioenergy**

- The use of biological resources for producing and processing materials, chemicals (incl. pharmaceutical precursors and biopharmaceuticals) and energy

- These resources include plants, algae, marine life, fungi and micro- organisms.
- Drivers: Investing in and developing the UK research base, encouraging and building research base and user interactions, meeting societal needs, promoting awareness and facilitating societal interactions.

- **International activities**

Please ensure that a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) is in place before disclosing any unpublished research to industry partners. Please talk to colleagues in the [Contracts team](#) about this if you require any help or advice.

Projects should aim to have minimal disruption posed by COVID-19 restrictions.

If you have any queries regarding partner organisation eligibility, please contact the Researcher Development Team (fse-resdev@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 an external partner will contribute actively to the project through the provision of resources (including facilities, equipment, consumables and technical expertise).

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

The BBSRC IPIFF2 Panel expects University staff to negotiate with the partner organisation a deal which minimises the support necessary from the BBSRC IPIFF2. 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 is from **August 2021 to 28 February 2022**.

Projects must begin and end within six months.

All project expenditure must be completed by the end date stated in the application form.

Any unspent funds will be returned to the Fund Manager for reallocation.

Costing & Eligible Costs

Proposals must comply with all the usual approval processes. **Please contact the relevant team in Research Services for help - details of which team to contact can be found [here](#).**

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 £1,000)
- Directly Allocated:** PI time (including indirect costs and estates)

BBSRC IPIFF2 projects are exempt from the minimum PI/Co-I contribution of 20%.

The maximum IPIFF2 grant contribution will be £20,000.

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 include provision of office and lab space for the secondee; staff time of University employees allocated to support the secondment. The PI's Department/Division is responsible for providing the secondee with appropriate office and lab space.

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 (up to £6,000) and consumables (up to £1,500).

- Project Budget:** Project costs must be discussed with Research Support Managers and entered into the application's budget sheet found at the end 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 IPIFF2 Panel. **Applicants should remember to write their proposals for a non-specialist audience.**

Assessment will take into account:

- The benefits to the ECR or staff involved, the University and the partner.
- Quality and quantity of knowledge/skills exchanged.
- The likelihood that the project plans will deliver the expected outputs and benefits.

- Excellence of the project proposed in leading towards local or global solutions within the BBSRC remit.
- Viability of project plans within the emerging COVID landscape.
- Potential for follow on funding and/or in-kind contributions.

Application Submission

The call for proposals is now open. Submissions should be made by midnight on Monday 2 August 2021. Further submissions details can be found on the application form.

Applicants will be notified by Friday 20 August 2021 and in writing about the outcome of their application.

Please note that applications will be evaluated by the Fund Manager for content and eligibility before being sent to the IPIFF2 Panel for consideration.

You are advised to contact the Researcher Development team and/or the Impact team for advice and guidance prior to submitting your application:

Dr Jim Boran jim.boran@manchester.ac.uk

Dr Gabriella Kakonyi gabriella.kakonyi@manchester.ac.uk

Lindsay Wilson lindsay.wilson@manchester.ac.uk

Dr Chris Roberts christopher.roberts-2@manchester.ac.uk

Dr Charles Evans charles.evans@manchester.ac.uk

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

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

Electronic submissions, with electronic signatures are acceptable.