



Biotechnology and  
Biological Sciences  
Research Council

## 2021/22 Strategic Longer and Larger grants Frontier bioscience

### Webinar

11th May 2021, 10:00

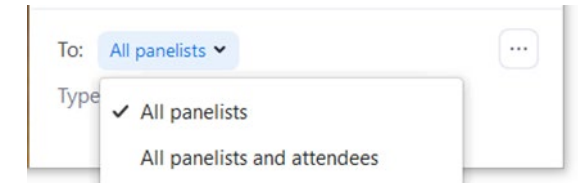
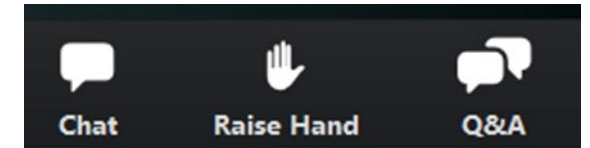
20th May 2021, 14:00

***Welcome: we will be starting shortly***

<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/strategic-longer-and-larger-grants-frontier-bioscience-2021-2022/>

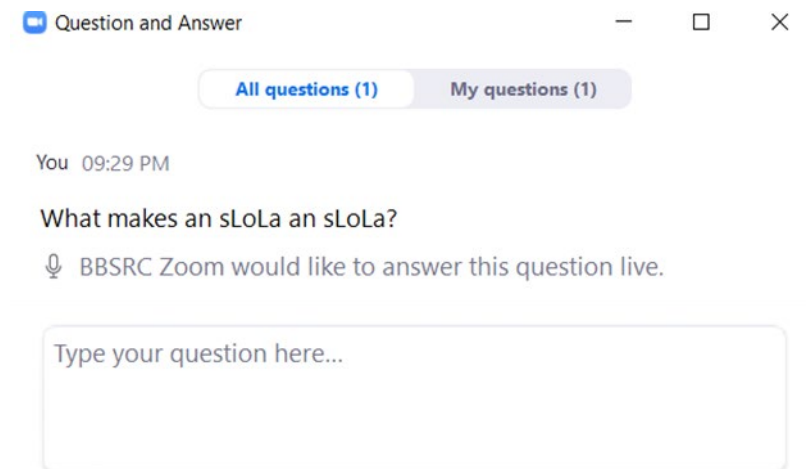
# Technical Notes

- By default, attendees are muted and video is turned off.
- Turning off VPN may improve connectivity
- Submit any questions that arise as the webinar progresses via the **Q&A** function
- Please only use the chat function for any technical assistance during the webinar.
  - Bear in mind your zoom name will be visible in the chat.



# Questions

- You can submit questions as the webinar progresses via the **Q&A** function
- Questions can also be submitted to [bbsrc.lolagrants@bbsrc.ukri.org](mailto:bbsrc.lolagrants@bbsrc.ukri.org) at any time. A team member will reply by email ASAP or we can arrange to speak.
- Detailed questions about a specific proposal which are unlikely to be relevant to other attendees should also be sent to the inbox.
- Questions about the Je-S system should be emailed directly to [JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org](mailto:JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org)



Question and Answer

All questions (1) My questions (1)

You 09:29 PM

What makes an sLoLa an sLoLa?

BBSRC Zoom would like to answer this question live.

Type your question here...

# Welcome and Introductions

- Panellists
  - Peter Burlinson: Research Strategy and Programmes
  - Tristan Fancourt: Research and Innovation Funding Delivery
  - Kyle Martin: Research Strategy and Programmes
  - Tom Pearson: Research Strategy and Programmes
  - Helen Smith: Research and Innovation Funding Delivery
  - Elly Tyacke: Research and Innovation Funding Delivery
- Single point of contact  
[bbsrc.lolagrants@bbsrc.ukri.org](mailto:bbsrc.lolagrants@bbsrc.ukri.org)
- Slides and FAQs will be posted on the call website after the webinar

# Purpose of the Webinar

- Provide an overview of the 2021/22 sLoLa call
- Highlight key expectations
- Ensure applications are appropriately targeted

# Agenda

- Overview and the scope of the call
- Some pointers on what makes a good sLoLa proposal
  
- Application and assessment process
- Eligibility and some FAQs
  
- Open Q&A

# Overview: frontier bioscience and BBSRC strategy

## *BBSRC Delivery Plan*

*“Our vision is to push back the frontiers of biology to deliver a healthy, prosperous and sustainable future.”*

## Understanding the rules of life

Promoting creative, curiosity-driven frontier bioscience to address fundamental questions in biology

### Advancing the frontiers of bioscience discovery



Understanding the rules of life



Transformative technologies

### Tackling strategic challenges



Bioscience for sustainable agriculture and food



Bioscience for renewable resources and clean growth



Bioscience for an integrated understanding of health

### Building strong foundations



People and talent



Infrastructure



Collaboration, partnerships and knowledge exchange

# Fit to scientific scope: some key indicators

- A significant fundamental bioscience question/ goal
- Potential to deliver a step change in understanding
- Often inter/multidisciplinary - but integration is key
- Likely to require innovative approaches and methods
- Reach of the knowledge outputs – **broad potential importance** to bioscience beyond immediate field, but end-user **applications not necessarily identifiable** at this stage.

Projects awarded in 2020

<https://www.ukri.org/news/new-projects-set-to-expand-the-frontiers-of-bioscience-knowledge/>



# Strategic Approach

- Proposals *may* have relevance to ‘Responsive Mode’ priorities but **must** be focused primarily on important fundamental science advancement
- Proposals must be within our remit
  - Contact us if unsure
- BBSRC’s broader portfolio will be considered in making decisions
  - Any significant overlaps with existing large investments
  - Proposals should be distinctive and outline how they fit within/ enhance UK bioscience

# What makes an sLoLa an sLoLa?

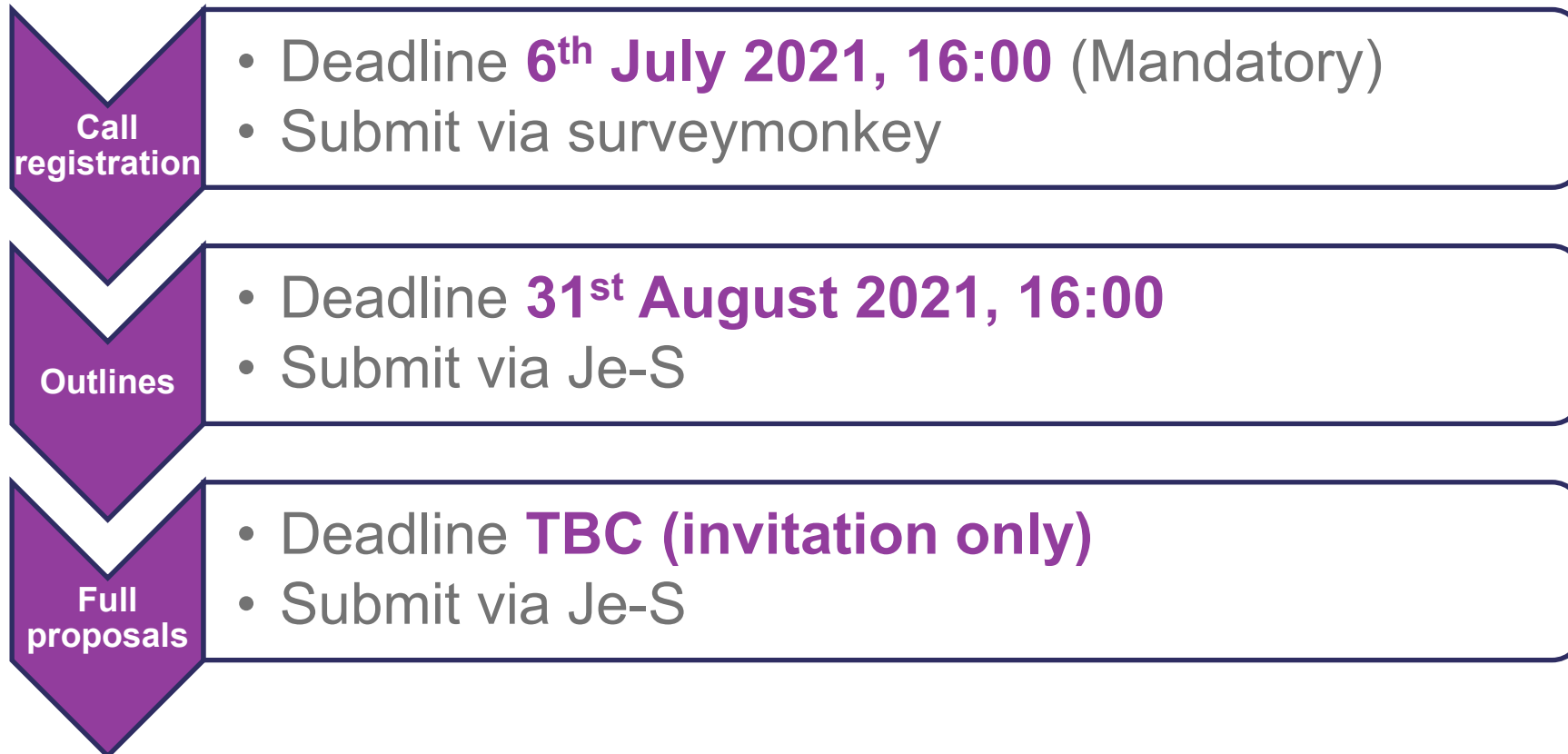
- The sLoLa mechanism is designed to support **large, integrated programs of research over a longer timeframe**
- Think carefully about your **research team** and whether it is the best team to deliver the proposed program of work in a **national context**
- Must demonstrate that the work **requires** a single larger scale award to be carried out
  - Not a collection of projects that could be undertaken separately or through successive smaller awards
  - Clear synergy and interdependency between work packages
  - Integration of data and results is key
  - Complementarity of the research team and approaches being used
  - Full justification for all elements of the programme

# The 2021/22 sLoLa call

- This will be a competitive call; **£16M** available in total for projects each >£2M
  - Our budget is limited (3-5 projects)
- The process is designed to identify and prioritise the most robust proposals of the highest quality at each step
  - Conduct peer review effectively and efficiently
  - Reviewer, committee member and BBSRC office resources
- We are looking for world leading research
  - Manage time and effort for applicants

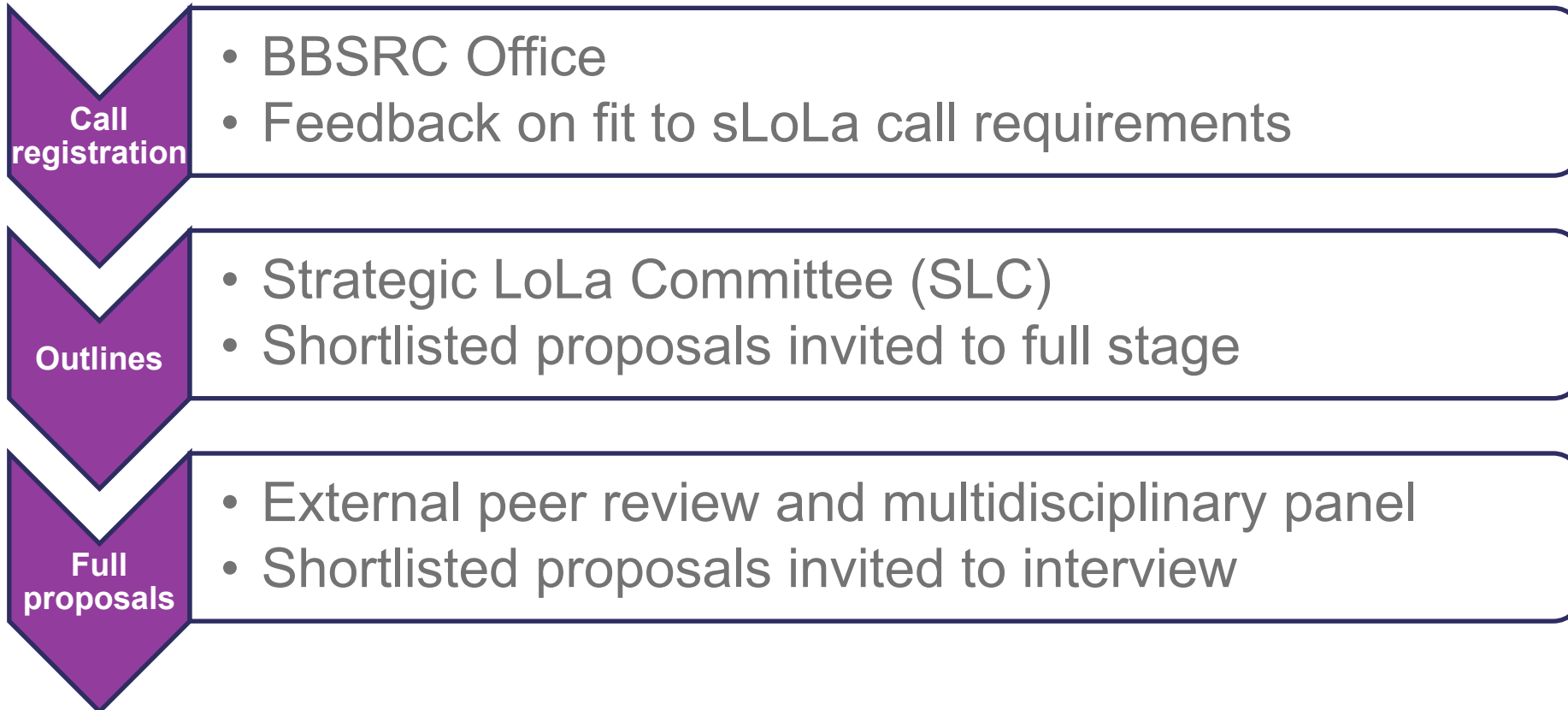
# Application process

Call registration is mandatory  
Full information is on the call webpage



# Assessment process

Details of what happens at each stage are in the call guidance document



# Call registration

- We are using the call **registration** to:
  - Ensure all potential outlines are appropriate for the call
  - Provide an early indication of the research areas and overall level of demand
- We encourage institutional conversations/ prioritisation at an early stage
  - If the call looks like it will be substantially over-subscribed we may contact ROs with a view to asking them to prioritise submissions
  - This will occur after the registration deadline when we have a complete picture
- There is scope to adjust objectives/ teams *after* registering, provided the overall focus is broadly the same

# Call registration

- Send registration via **SurveyMonkey**:
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/slolaregistration2021>
- Feedback will be provided as soon as possible after submitting - typically within 10 working days
- We aim to filter out proposals that are non-responsive to the call or ineligible in the feedback
- We cannot provide any other indication of the competitiveness of proposals

# Outlines

- Pay attention to recommended length of content for each section in the **6 page Case for Support**.
  - Science case is important but don't neglect other criteria.
  - Refer to Guidance for Applicants document for further information on what to include and the assessment criteria
- Only **indicative costs** are required by UKRI-BBSRC at this stage. ROs are therefore advised to take a pragmatic approach to costings.
- Will be assessed solely by the **SLC** (no external peer review) – date TBC

**Deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2021, 4 pm**



# Outlines

- Be realistic. This is going to be a competitive call funding at most ~ 5 awards.
- Research organisations should bear in mind the level of competition **nationally** and that we are looking for **world class bioscience**
- Investigators can be involved in more than one proposal but PIs can only hold one sLoLa at any time
- We expect a small number of submissions that genuinely meet **all** the assessment criteria to an excellent/ exceptional level to move to the full stage of assessment, following the SLC meeting
- Feedback will be provided to all applicants regardless of outcome

# Full Stage

- More detailed Case for Support plus other documentation, expanding substantially on the information provided at the Outline stage
- Two assessment stages:
  - **Full proposal** assessed by **external peer review** and **multidisciplinary panel**.
  - **Interview** by **SLC** for those teams whose projects are recommended by the multidisciplinary panel

# Eligibility

- Standard BBSRC criteria apply
- No requirement for a specific number of prior BBSRC grants
- BUT we still expect evidence indicating the applicants' ability to deliver a programme of this nature and scale (research and management experience)
- We strongly encourage you to consider EDI when forming your team
- We also encourage Early Career Researcher involvement, where they are adding value and with appropriate support

# Assessment criteria

- Research excellence
- Importance and transformative potential
- Added value of funding via sLoLa grant
- Ability to deliver
- Management strategy - full stage only
- Resources - full stage only

# Some “Dos and Don’ts”

- DO submit proposals on a single Je-S form
- DO include ECRs/Fellows where their expertise is relevant
- DO request funding for equipment
- DO include references in the Case for Support

- DON’T include international Co-Is
- DON’T submit identical, previously unsuccessful proposals
- DON’T include journal-based metrics in personal statements

# Summary

- Read the call text, guidance and formal eligibility requirements carefully
- Address all aspects of the assessment criteria and the call scope fully
- Ensure you communicate your proposal clearly, for both subject specialists and a more general scientific audience
- Collaborative teams need to be able to demonstrate full synergy and ability to work together effectively. Consider team composition carefully.
- **If in doubt, please contact us for advice: [bbsrc.lolagrants@bbsrc.ukri.org](mailto:bbsrc.lolagrants@bbsrc.ukri.org)**



**Biotechnology and  
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# Thank you

**Please use the Q&A function to ask  
any questions**

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