

## Bioscience Ideas Pipeline submission guidance and frequently asked questions

UKRI-BBSRC is seeking to engage with its broad stakeholder communities to gather and develop ambitious and exciting ideas that could lead to new research and innovation activities and/or help shape the future of UK bioscience.

UKRI-BBSRC is aiming to have a pipeline of ideas at various stages of development, so that when opportunities arise there are potential bioscience concepts developed and ready to take forward. The big ideas process is not in itself a call for proposals because there is no dedicated funding aligned to this activity. However, by developing big ideas other avenues could be inspired by the idea itself as well as the potential to be part of the pipeline of ideas.

### General points of guidance to remember when submitting an idea:

- In describing your idea, please use non-technical language and consider the audience. The language that is used in the form should be wholly accessible to a wide range of audiences, such as: Research Council staff members, non-experts (including other researchers who are not working in the field/s described) and Government
- Ensure that when describing this opportunity you convey the excitement, vision and inspiration of the idea
- The submission template provides some guidance as to the sort of information we'd expect to see in each section and which will help UKRI-BBSRC fully understand the idea
- These ideas will develop over time with support and expertise of UKRI-BBSRC. Therefore, the initial submission should capture the basic principles of the idea to allow UKRI-BBSRC to assess its fit to the Bioscience Big Ideas Pipeline.

### Bioscience Big Ideas Pipeline Frequently Asked Questions

- [Is this a call for proposals for funding?](#)

**No, this is not a call for proposals. There is no direct funding associated with this activity.** This is an opportunity for the community to pitch their Big Ideas to UKRI-BBSRC. UKRI-BBSRC is looking to **generate and prioritise** a number of ambitious and exciting ideas, with potential to deliver or enable transformative scientific, economic or societal impact. These may inform the development of UKRI-BBSRC strategy, and could potentially attract investment at a later stage, as opportunities arise. Please ensure that when completing this form, you write with this in mind, i.e. we are looking for ideas at this stage, not a research proposal.

Ideas will need to be championed and driven with the support of the relevant community or communities. Please be aware that, if prioritised, an idea may require other people to lead and/or be involved in its development; this will be discussed as part of the process of developing an idea further beyond the initial submission. UKRI-BBSRC may put you in contact with others who have submitted similar ideas in order to develop the idea further, but will seek your permission to do so first.

### ➤ What is a Big Idea?

Examples of the nature of the ideas that we would like to receive include (but are not limited to):

- A distinctive and well defined challenge requiring new impetus to tackle
- Discovery research areas that represent a potential step-change in knowledge but cannot be tackled through conventional approaches
- An idea that would be enabling (if successful) and would generate further breakthroughs and outputs in multiple other areas of science
- Building research community capability in emerging technologies, research areas, and disciplinary interfaces
- Ideas that require multi-disciplinary approaches or new ways of collaborative working to be delivered

Multidisciplinary ideas are encouraged but the ideas submitted to BBSRC's idea's pipeline should demonstrate clear relevance to the advancement of bioscience research or its application

### ➤ What is not a Big Idea?

Ideas that meet one or more of the following may be considered out of scope:

- An idea that is achievable now, through existing funding routes
- A research grant proposal
- An idea pursued by an individual working independently without any further engagement from the relevant research and/or stakeholder communities
- An idea that is completely undeliverable, regardless of the level of investment and resource provided, or which is scientifically impossible
- Something that is generally well known already as a challenge and / or is already being addressed through dedicated action
- An idea solely addressing a market need where there is no need for input from the broader bioscience community.

### ➤ Who can submit a Big Idea?

Anyone can submit an idea UKRI-BBSRC is seeking to engage with its broad stakeholder communities. However, we would recommend that you discuss your idea with a group of interested parties / stakeholders. When submitting an idea, provide as much information within the form as possible.

### ➤ Is it possible to submit ideas at the interfaces of remits with other funders?

Yes, the pipeline aims to capture multi- and inter-disciplinary ideas and opportunities some of which may require multiple delivery partners to realise. However, for UKRI-BBSRC to progress an idea it should have a significant bioscience component.

For ideas that would benefit from the input of other Research Councils, BBSRC will engage with the cross-UKRI big ideas forum for advice and support.

- Is it possible to submit things outside my usual area of expertise?

Yes, please provide as much information as possible within the form.

- What happens to Big Ideas once submitted?

Ideas submitted will be considered for fit to the scope of the pipeline and BBSRC remit before being reviewed by the most appropriate mechanism within BBSRC's expert strategy advisory system depending on the type of idea and the urgency of the question. Submitters will be informed of which mechanism will be used to review their idea and the likely timeframe. The potential of ideas will be considered using the following high-level discussion points:

<b>Transformative potential: scientific</b> Potential to deliver a 'step change' in knowledge and/or research and innovation capability (technologies, skills), furthering the UK's international standing in bioscience.
<b>Transformative potential: society and economy</b> Potential to deliver significant economic and social benefits.
<b>Strategic alignment</b> Extent to which the idea would contribute to the realisation of BBSRC, UKRI or wider government research and innovation objectives.
<b>Timeliness</b> The extent to which the idea represents a time-limited opportunity and/or to which 'now' is the right time to take this forward.

Ideas identified as having high transformative potential will be prioritised for further investigation / development. All other ideas will be held on a longlist of ideas and further considered as a part of the regular review of UKRI BBSRC Strategy.

Please note, once an idea has been submitted you are giving UKRI-BBSRC permission to develop the idea in any way it sees appropriate. This may include further development by BBSRC staff working with the submitter and inviting other people to lead and/or be involved in its development.

Feedback will be provided to submitters after prioritisation.

BBSRC may publish information relating to ideas submitted.