

Version History

Version	Description	Date
1.0	Initial publication	3 May 2022

This FAQ should be read in conjunction with the information on the UKRI funding finder for the [current sLoLa call](#) and [BBSRC's Grants Guide](#).

Project team

1. Are cross-institutional and cross-departmental bids welcome?

Yes. Applicants are asked to note that both outline and full stage submissions must be made on a single JeS form with one Research Organisation identified as the lead. This Research Organisation will be responsible for the management of the award.

All applicants should consider the management approach and how this will support the effective working of the team and delivery of the outcomes where this spans different physical locations.

2. What team size might be acceptable?

There are no limits on the number of staff. Clear roles for all applicants must be identified within the proposal. At the full stage all resources must be fully justified.

3. Can fellows, postdocs and technical staff be included in proposals?

The staff named in the proposal should be determined by the need for their expertise, skills, and knowledge.

Some staff may not be eligible to be Co-Investigators if:

- Their contract of employment does not outlast the duration of the grant (and no guarantee is given that this will be extended should the proposal be successful)
- They are not resident in the UK for at least 183 days per tax year.
- Their position is not of lecturer level (or equivalent).

It may be possible for these staff to be included as Researcher Co-Investigators. Please contact us if you require any advice regarding the eligibility of an applicant.

A sLoLa project provides excellent opportunities for development; therefore, the inclusion of Fellows or Researcher Co-Investigators within the team is encouraged where appropriate mentorship arrangements are in place.

4. Is there a minimum requirement for Principal Investigator time?

We do not set a minimum requirement for Principal Investigator time committed to the project. PI time should be appropriate to the delivery of the project and be clearly justified

within the text.

5. Can applications include Co-Principal Investigators?

Je-S application forms will allow only a single Principal Investigator to be selected; however, where a project will make use of an alternative management or leadership model this can be described in the Résumé for Research and Innovation. The investigator selected as Principal Investigator within the Je-S application form will be the point of contact for BBSRC.

Team Résumé for Research and Innovation

6. What is a Team Résumé for Research and Innovation?

The Team Résumé for Research and Innovation (R4RI) replaces both the 'ability to deliver' section of the Case for Support and standard CVs, which were required in previous sLoLa calls.

The use of the R4RI is a pilot and will be kept under review.

7. What information should applicants include within the Team Résumé for Research and Innovation?

Detailed instructions for what to include within the R4RI can be found in the Guidance for Applicants document on the sLoLa call page.

8. Does each member of the applicant team need to submit a separate Résumé for Research and Innovation?

No. A single team R4RI should be submitted, which includes information pertaining to all members of the proposed team.

9. Should applicants submit standard CVs alongside the Team Résumé for Research and Innovation?

No. Standard CVs will no longer be accepted. All relevant information should be provided within the R4RI.

10. Should applicants include information relating to collaborators, project partners or subcontractors within the Team Résumé for Research and Innovation?

Brief information on collaborators, project partners and subcontractors may only be included in the 'additional information' section of the Team Résumé for Research and Innovation. Further information should be included within the Case for Support and Letter of Support documents. Specific information relating to Project Partners should also be included within the Je-S application form; please see the Je-S handbook for further information.

11. Why is BBSRC asking for a Team Résumé for Research and Innovation instead of standard CVs?

UKRI is committed to examining its approach to expert peer review to identify improvements

which could positively impact on research culture. The R4RI mitigates against biases that can impact the assessment of an individual's track record when using standard CVs. R4RI requires applicants to discuss past experience with direct relevance to the proposed work, and also enables a more holistic view of an individual's contribution to research, teams, and wider society.

The use of the R4RI is a pilot and will be kept under review.

General background information on Resume for Research and Innovation

<https://www.ukri.org/news/ukri-launches-new-resume-for-research-and-innovation/>

Eligibility

12. Where should applicants provide evidence of their eligibility to apply to the sLoLa call?

Applicants should complete the table found within the Team Résumé for Research and Innovation template. Standard CVs will no longer be accepted. The completed table must show clearly that each applicant meets the eligibility requirements as set out in BBSRC's Grants Guide. If an applicant answers 'no' to any of the eligibility questions set out in the table, they must provide a Letter of Support confirming eligibility at the full stage (does not apply to Researcher Co-Investigators).

13. Are project partners and subcontractors allowed?

Yes. BBSRC considers eligible institutions to be best placed to determine how their work is undertaken. Sub-contracting aspects of the work to non-eligible institutions or individuals, for example due to the lack of appropriate expertise in eligible institutions or individuals, is acceptable.

Applications should explicitly state the role of all individuals involved in the project. Please refer to Section 2 of the BBSRC Grants guide for further information about collaborators, project partners, and subcontractors.

14. Are international applicants allowed?

No. All applicants must hold a post at an eligible institution.

International collaborators, project partners and subcontractors are allowed. Please refer to Section 2 of the BBSRC Grants Guide for further details and contact us if you require further advice on what is appropriate.

15. Are applicants eligible if they are partly based abroad but have positions at UK HEIs?

Yes, if they meet the criteria (including the requirement for residency) as described in Section 3 of the BBSRC Grants Guide.

16. Can PhD studentships be included as part of a proposal?

Resources for PhD students cannot be requested through the sLoLa scheme.

17. Can we include Researcher Co-Investigators in these proposals?

Yes. Information on Researcher Co-Investigators is available in Section 3.11 of the BBSRC Grants Guide.

18. Can UKRI Future Leader Fellows be part of the team of applicants (while continuing their fellowship)?

UKRI Future Leader Fellows can be on the team of applicants but they must refer to the terms and conditions of their award for the time commitment they can give to other projects as well as BBSRC's standard eligibility criteria. We recommend you contact UKRI's Future Leader Fellowships Team if further information is required fellows@ukri.org.

19. If a PI from a previous sLoLa round is successful can they be a Col on a new sLoLa proposal?

Yes. As outlined in the call text, restrictions on eligibility apply to investigators only being eligible as PI on a single sLoLa. Investigators may be co-investigators on other sLoLa projects provided they are able to make the necessary time commitment.

Call registration

20. Does the PI or the Research Organisation submit the registration?

While either the PI or Research Organisation can submit a registration, we expect that the PI should engage with their research office at all stages of the application process.

BBSRC will include the designated Research Organisation contact within the registration feedback email sent to Principal Investigators. This will enable the contact to have a clear picture of registrations from their Research Organisation.

21. Can a previously unsuccessful proposal from a sLoLa or other call be resubmitted for the current call?

Identical resubmissions are not permitted. This will be a highly competitive call and substantive changes to the work programme would be expected for this to be considered. Please email the sLoLa team if you have questions related to a previously unsuccessful outline or full stage proposal prior to submission.

22. Will small changes be allowable post-registration? For example, addition of Co-Investigators when additional expertise is deemed necessary during the development of the proposal?

Yes. At the registration stage, only information about the anticipated team is required.

23. Is it worth applicants contacting BBSRC before registration to talk through their proposal?

Please email the sLoLa Team inbox bbsrc.lolagrants@bbsrc.ukri.org with your questions in

the first instance. Where necessary, we would be happy to arrange to speak with applicants.

24. How quickly will feedback be given after registration?

Feedback on proposals will be given as soon as possible after you have registered. Registering in advance of the deadline will give you more time to take onboard any feedback from the registration provided by the office. We will aim to get back to all applicants within ten working days of registration; however, our ability to respond in this timeframe will be dependent on the quantity of registrations that we receive which typically peaks close to the closing date.

Scope

25. Would proposals that build on previous large investments which are no longer active be permitted or disadvantaged, owing to similarity with previously funded work?

Providing it is appropriately recognised and justified, work that builds on previously funded programmes will not be disadvantaged. New proposals developed from prior large investments should be able to demonstrate that they will deliver an appropriately transformational step change in meeting the aims of the sLoLa scheme.

26. Are bids expected to contain a significant outreach element to confer impact?

A range of actions to ensure impact is realised should be considered for all proposals, appropriate to the nature of the proposed work. Resources can be requested to support this provided they are justified. We recognise there are many forms of impact and that these can be delivered through a range of measures, though the scope of the call means projects are unlikely to be directly translational.

Resources and budget

27. What financial information is required at the registration stage?

No financial information is required at the registration stage.

28. What financial information is required at the outline stage?

Only indicative costs are required by UKRI-BBSRC at the outlines stage. Research Organisations are therefore advised to take a pragmatic approach to costings as these may be revised in the full application and do not undergo detailed assessment at the outline stage.

29. What financial information is required at the full stage?

A full breakdown of the requested costs and resources is required at the full stage and all requests need to be fully justified.

30. Can one request large equipment (above OJEU limit) on a sLoLa?

Equipment may be sought as part of a sLoLa proposal, where the items of equipment requested are necessary for the successful delivery of the proposed research. Items of multiple-use equipment (i.e. where the equipment is necessary for the pursuit of the proposed research but will not be fully occupied on it) may also be sought. The proposal must set out the other proposed uses and explain the overall benefit to BBSRC science of the equipment investment being sought.

Equipment of value *below* £10,000 will be funded at 80% FEC. Equipment of value *above* £10,000 will normally be funded at no more than 50% FEC.

Items of equipment to be used in the development of new instruments may be funded at up to 100% FEC. Please contact us to discuss whether your request would be eligible under this exception. More detail on what constitutes instrument development can be found in the UKRI guidance: <https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/UKRI-261120-EquipmentGuidance.pdf>

Applicants should refer to the guidance on equipment in Section 5 of the BBSRC Grants Guide for detailed information.

31. Do you expect leveraged financial contributions to sLoLa proposals, e.g. from my university?

Our normal FEC rules apply to the sLoLa scheme.

If institutions choose to provide additional resources towards a project (e.g. in kind) a letter of support from the Head of Department (or equivalent) is required confirming any relevant institutional support at the full stage.

32. Is there an upper limit for proposals?

No upper limit is specified for the value of individual proposals. Proposals must be over £2 million (100% FEC project value) and can be up to five years in duration. The indicative budget for the 2022/23 call is £16 million and we anticipate awarding 3-5 sLoLa grants.

Previous sLoLa project total award values have ranged from approximately £2.0 million – £6.6 million.

33. Will the budget allocated to the individual Committees for the Responsive Mode round be influenced by the possibility of having sLoLas in that round?

The indicative budget for the sLoLa call is in addition to the budget allocation for standard Responsive Mode proposals and not linked to a particular Committee.

Assessment

34. What is the expected composition of the Strategic LoLa Committee (SLC)? Are members selected from Responsive Mode Committees?

The SLC membership will be tailored to the submissions received to the 2022-23 call. The SLC membership typically includes members of BBSRC Council, Responsive Mode Research Committee Chairs, members of BBSRC's Core Committees and Pool of Experts, and additional co-opted expertise as required. The membership is overseen by BBSRC's Appointments Board.

35. Are all assessment criteria weighted equally?

There is no explicit weighting of individual criteria. Proposals will need to meet **all** the assessment criteria to a high level to be competitive. We have provided indicative section lengths in the guidance for the Case for Support and Team Résumé for Research and Innovation to help guide the appropriate amount of information to include in relation to each of the criteria.

36. Who attends the interview?

The interview is attended by three team members: the Principal Investigator and two Co-Investigators.

37. How important are the interviews to the decision-making process?

Interviews form the final stage of assessment by the SLC. The SLC will consider all aspects of the full stage of assessment, including documentation, external reviewer comments and the PI response to these, the full stage panel assessment as well as additional information from the interview in making its final funding recommendation to UKRI-BBSRC.

38. What feedback is given to applicants during the call process?

Feedback is provided at registration, outline and full stages.

Future calls

39. When will the *next* call be?

Future calls are subject to confirmation but will likely follow a similar timetable.