2022/23 strategic Longer and Larger (sLoLa) grants: frontier bioscience

Webinar
3 May 2022, 10:00
12 May 2022, 14:00

Welcome: we will be starting shortly

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 during the webinar progresses via the Q&A function.

• Questions can also be submitted to 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.
Welcome and Introductions

• Panellists
  • Michael Connolly: Research and Innovation Funding Delivery
  • Laurie O’Neill: Research and Innovation Funding Delivery
  • Helen Smith: Research and Innovation Funding Delivery
  • Kyle Martin: Research Strategy and Programmes
  • Tom Pearson: Research Strategy and Programmes
  • Peter Burlinson: Research Strategy and Programmes

• Single point of contact
  bbsrc.lolagrants@bbsrc.ukri.org
Purpose of the Webinar

• Provide an overview of the 2022/23 sLoLa call

• Highlight key expectations

• Ensure applications are appropriately targeted

• Introduce the Team Résumé for Research and Innovation
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

Understanding the rules of life
Promoting creative, curiosity-driven frontier bioscience to address fundamental questions in biology

Fit to scientific scope: some key indicators

• A significant fundamental bioscience question/goal
• Potential to deliver a step change in understanding
• Often multidisciplinary
• Likely to require innovative approaches and methods

• **Broad potential importance** to bioscience beyond immediate field, but end-user applications not necessarily identifiable at this stage.

Projects awarded in 2021

Team science

• An opportunity to bring together multiple researchers to address a complex challenge
  • Diversity of disciplines, institutions, perspectives…

• Think carefully about your research team and whether it is the best team to deliver the proposed programme of work in a national context
  • Likely multi-investigator, multi-institution, multi-disciplinary
  • Bringing together researchers from range of backgrounds
  • Equality, Diversity and Inclusion should be considered

• Complementarity and ‘added value’ of each team member should be clear
  • Covering all experimental, analytical, managerial and leadership requirements
Team science leadership

• Principal Investigators are **not required** to have held similar sized award before

• The sLoLa team (PI and Co-Is **collectively**) should demonstrate competency to lead complex, multi-site project

• Plans for mentoring or shared responsibilities (e.g. Co-PIs) can be highlighted in Team Résumé for Research and Innovation
What makes an sLola an sLola?

• The sLoLa mechanism is designed to support large, integrated programs of research over a longer timeframe

• Must demonstrate that the work *requires* a single larger scale award to be carried out
  • Clear synergy and interdependency between work packages
  • Project summary diagram in Case for Support
  • Integration of data and results is key

• **Full justification** for every element of research programme
Strategic approach

• 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

• Proposals must be focused primarily on important fundamental science advancement
  • Proposals will be excluded if primary aim is to solve an applied challenge

• Proposals must be within our remit
  • Contact us if unsure
The 2022/23 sLoLa call

• £16M available in total for projects each >£2M
  • Our budget is limited (3-5 projects)

• 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
  • Manage time and effort for applicants

• We are looking for world-leading research
Application process

Call registration is mandatory
Full information is on the call webpage

Call registration
- Deadline 14 June 2022, 16:00 (mandatory)
- Submit via SurveyMonkey

Outlines
- Deadline 17 August 2022, 16:00
- Submit via Je-S

Full proposals
- Deadline 1 February 2023, 16:00 (invitation only)
- Submit via Je-S
Assessment process

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

- **Call registration**
  - BBSRC Office
  - Feedback on fit to sLoLa call requirements

- **Outlines**
  - Strategic LoLa Committee (SLC)
  - Shortlisted proposals invited to full stage

- **Full proposals**
  - External peer review and multidisciplinary panel
  - Shortlisted proposals invited to interview
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

• You will receive feedback on:
  – Fit to call scope
  – Justification for sLoLa
  – Eligibility (BBSRC remit and applicant)

• There is scope to adjust objectives and teams after registering, provided the overall focus is broadly the same

Deadline: 14 June 2022, 4 pm
Call registration

• Send registration via **Surveymonkey**:  
  • [https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/slolaregistration2022](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/slolaregistration2022)

• Feedback will be provided as soon as possible after submitting - typically within 10 working days

• We aim to filter out proposals that are ineligible or non-responsive to the call scope in the feedback

• We cannot provide any other indication of the competitiveness of proposals

Deadline: **14 June 2022, 4 pm**
Outlines

• 2 documents to submit alongside Je-S proposal form
  • Case for Support (5 pages)
  • Team Résumé for Research and Innovation (R4RI) (3 pages)

• Only **indicative costs** are required by BBSRC at this stage. ROs are therefore advised to take a pragmatic approach to costings.

• Will be assessed solely by the **Strategic LoLa Committee** (no external peer review)

**Deadline:** 17 Aug 2022, 4 pm
Outlines - Case for Support

• 5 pages
  • Half-page project summary diagram
  • Additional space for science case

• Refer to submission document guidance for further information on what to include

• Pay attention to recommended length of content for each section
  • Science case is important but don’t neglect other criteria.

Deadline: 17 Aug 2022, 4 pm
Outlines - Team Résumé for Research and Innovation

- 3 pages (template provided)
  - Role of each team member
  - Evidence of capability within team to deliver proposed work
  - Eligibility

- Showcase research outputs and contributions to teams, people development, scientific community and wider society
  - Examples given should be directly relevant to proposed sLoLa programme

- Refer to submission document guidance for further information on what to include

Deadline: 17 Aug 2022, 4 pm
Outlines - Team Résumé for Research and Innovation

• Mitigates against potential biases associated with CVs
  • Allows capture of a wider range of contributions to research and innovation

• Excellent opportunity to showcase why your team is right for the delivery of the proposed project

• Opportunity to highlight particular individuals
  • No need to mention every team member for each section
  • Select most relevant exemplars from within team to showcase

Deadline: 17 Aug 2022, 4 pm
Outlines

• This is going to be a competitive call funding at most ~ 5 awards.

• 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.

Deadline: 17 Aug 2022, 4 pm
Full Stage

• More detailed Case for Support plus other documentation, expanding substantially on the information provided at the Outline stage

• Changes to team from outline allowed (please contact us)

• 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

• Full stage launch will be supported by webinar
  • General feedback from outline stage SLC
  • Expectations for full proposals

Deadline: 1 Feb 2023, 4pm
Eligibility

• Standard BBSRC criteria apply

• No requirement for a specific number of prior BBSRC grants

• We expect evidence indicating the team’s capability 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 Researcher Co-Investigator and Fellow 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
• Capability 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 Researcher Co-Investigators/Fellows where relevant

• DO request funding for equipment where necessary to deliver project

• DO include references within the page limit of Case for Support and Team R4RI

• DON’T include international or otherwise ineligible Co-Is

• DON’T submit identical, previously unsuccessful proposals

• DON’T submit standard individual CVs
Summary

• Read the call text, guidance and formal eligibility requirements carefully

• Address all aspects of the assessment criteria and the call scope

• Ensure you communicate your proposal clearly, for both subject specialists and a more general scientific audience

• Consider team composition carefully. Collaborative teams need to be able to demonstrate full synergy and capability to work together effectively.

• If in doubt, please contact us for advice: bbsrc.lolagrants@bbsrc.ukri.org
Thank you

Please use the Q&A function to ask any questions

bbsrc.lolagrants@bbsrc.ukri.org

https://www.ukri.org/opportunity стратегический долгосрочный и крупный грант СЛЛО - Биотехнологии и биологические науки 2022-2023