Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

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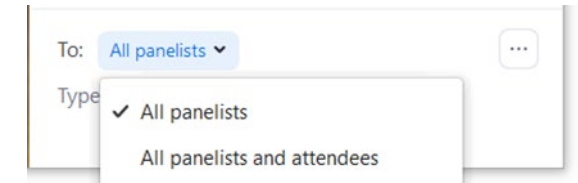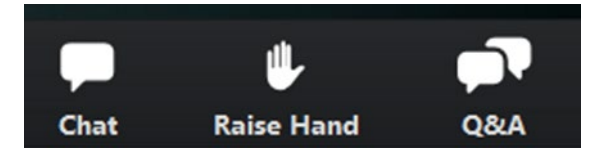
Webinar

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

Welcome: we will be starting shortly

https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/strategic-longer-and-larger-grants-slola-frontier-bioscience-2022-to-2023/
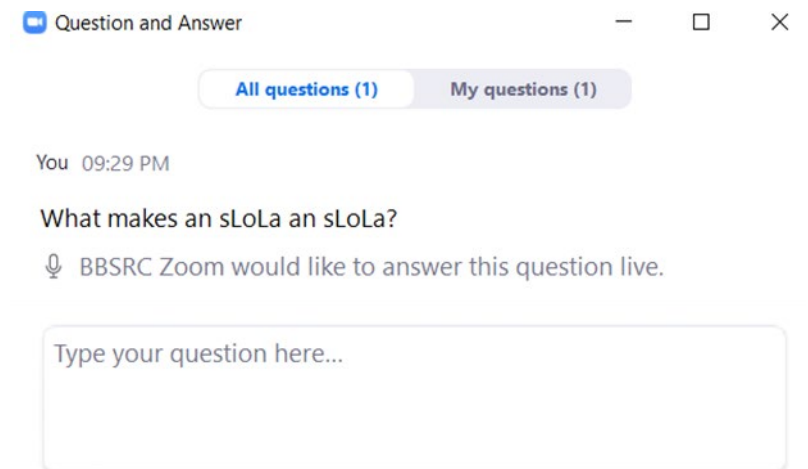
Technical Notes

- 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

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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

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Overview: frontier bioscience and BBSRC strategy

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

https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/frontier-bioscience-understanding-the-rules-of-life/

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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

https://www.ukri.org/news/bbsrc-backs-frontier-research-with-17m-investment-in-team-science/

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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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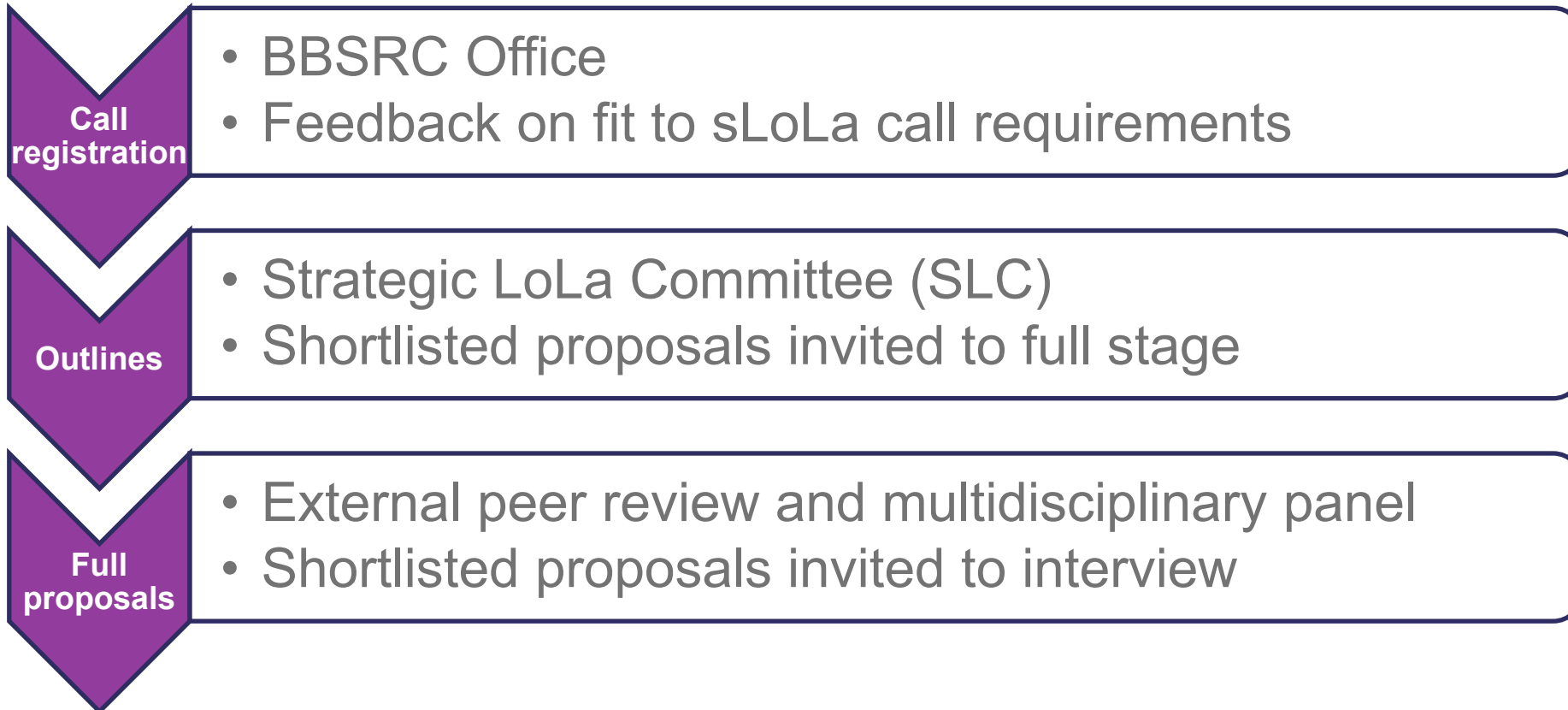
Call registration

- 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

- 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

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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**

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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

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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**

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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**

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Thank you

Please use the Q&A function to ask any questions

bbsrc.lolagrants@bbsrc.ukri.org

https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/strategic-longer-and-larger-grants-slola-frontier-bioscience-2022-to-2023/