



## BBSRC DISCOVERY FELLOWSHIPS WEBINAR MARCH 2023

### FAQ'S

Question	Answer
Are we allowed to cost for an equipment worth less than 100k?	No. The Discovery Fellowship does not support the purchase of equipment. This includes items such as PCs, laptops, and cameras. We would consider 'equipment' to be any item that would have a functional use beyond the Fellowship. Such items would be expected to form part of the support from the Host Institution.
Are we allowed to cost for a PDRA in discovery award?  Can the DF budget be used towards a technician salary?	The Discovery Fellowship does not support costs for research staff (for example, PDRAs). You can request costs for a technician if required. All costs requested must be fully justified and within the maximum £500k fEC.
Can we cover the costs of field assistants that collect data on animal subjects (behavioural observation in the wild). There are costs associated with room & board, and travel to a field site.	You can request these costs provided they are fully justified in relation to the work programme and within the maximum fEC budget. Such costs could also be provided as part of the Host organisation support for the fellowship.
If you are planning on using other services from the Earlham Institute, aside from sequencing, will this also require a technical assessment form?	You should discuss your requirements with the Earlham Instituter in the first instance who will advise if a Technical Assessment Form is required.

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Is it possible to spend a portion of the Fellowship (e.g. 1-2 months) in an overseas collaborator laboratory?	Periods of research can be conducted at overseas Research Organisations, however the host organisation that employs the fellow and holds the Discovery Fellowship award must be based in the UK. Any period of research away from the primary host must be fully justified and supported by letters from the proposed host Group Leaders at any secondary organisations.
Can some of the grant money be spend on experiments performed by collaborators in different institution abroad (in the EU)?	You can request costs to support your travel and subsistence at an overseas institution, or costs for you to take consumables to the institution. However In all instances of collaborative activity applicants and collaborators or project partners must be aware that any costs incurred, direct or otherwise, by either collaborators or collaborators institutions (project partners) in connection with collaborations, cannot be met by BBSRC.
Are institutional contributions to be considered in the total amount of funding applied for or are these on top of the £500,000?	No, additional funds offered by the Host are not counted within the £500K fEC. BBSRC will pay 80% of the fEC (maximum of £400K) and the host will be expected to meet the remaining 20%. Any additional funds over the 20% do not count towards the fEC and would be a demonstration of significant financial support to the Fellow
Can we budget travel costs to BBSRC events into the project?	Yes. For details of mandatory events see Annex 2 of the <a href="#">Discovery Fellowship terms of award</a> , under the Additional info section.
Are external conferences covered by the fellowship?	You can claim costs for relevant external conferences and networking activities provided they are fully justified and within the maximum £500K fEC.
Where should we include internal institutional collaborator contributions like consultancy time on experimental time.	These costs cannot be sought or included as part of the Fellowship, but could be provide by the Host institution as additional support for the fellowship
Can postdocs in other labs be included as a collaborator?	Yes, but costs cannot be sought for the collaborator, but could be provided as part of the Host support
Can we cost inflation on consumables into the grant as part of risk mitigation?	No. Research grants and fellowship awards have an amount added at the time of announcement to take account of expected pay awards and inflation over their lifetime. The value awarded is the total financial commitment entered into by BBSRC and is known as the cash limit of the award.

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<p>Can placement students be costed onto the fellowship?</p> <p>Can we use the budget for PhD student cost? What about BSc and MRes students?</p>	<p>No. Studentships, or student resource may not be requested, or included, on BBSRC research grant applications including fellowships. BBSRC studentships are only available through application to the various BBSRC training award schemes</p>
<p>Is it possible to supervise students during the fellowship, if costs are covered separately by funding from the host PI group? Would any additional teaching be possible?</p>	<p>Your primary focus must be your fellowship program, but we actively encourage exposure to other activities that will develop your career, such as a small amount of teaching. This would be considered by BBSRC on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p>Although budgeting for staff is not permitted, co-supervision of PhD students via CDTs etc is possible?</p>	<p>Yes, please see the answer above for further information.</p>
<p>Can Fellowship holders apply for undergraduate vacation student funding via societies, e.g. Microbiology Society, Biochemical society, or are they excluded too?</p>	<p>This would be decided on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p>For the R4RI section: How should we reference important publications that we have contributed to as this is included in the word count. Can we just put the DOI number of the publication?</p>	<p>When referring to outputs such as publications, we recommend providing these as a digital object identifier (DOI) which can be hyperlinked to the publication where possible. This will help you to save space in the R4RI section.</p>
<p>Will there be any exemplar R4RIs as this is the first year of their use?</p>	<p>The BBSRC are not currently able to share any previous examples of the R4RI to Fellowship applicants. Full details of how to complete your R4RI, including information on what you should include in each module, can be found either on the 2023 Discovery Fellowships call site, or UKRI's specific R4RI guidance website: <a href="#">Résumé for Research and Innovation (R4RI) guidance – UKRI</a>.</p>
<p>How important is pilot data for the proposed work?</p>	<p>There isn't a need for extensive preliminary data. However, the application should propose work which is feasible and achievable, and preliminary data may strengthen an application.</p>
<p>Does your application need to build off your prior work, or can you go in a completely different direction but building on work of other groups?</p>	<p>It is perfectly acceptable for a Discovery Fellowship to be taking the applicants away from the work that they've previously done. You should ensure you provide strong evidence that you are working towards independence. Therefore work can build on your previous work, work that you are starting to establish, or it can take your work into a different direction.</p>

Question	Answer
Is a change of field from your current one seen unfavourably?	Applications for work in a new area should provide convincing evidence for the Committee that you have the right contacts to build expertise and skills needed to deliver the work
If I am planning to work part-time, should I apply as part time or apply as full-time and then stretch the budget later?	You can apply to work full-time or part-time at time of application, and you can also change your working time during the tenure of the fellowship if required. The total maximum budget will however remain the same.
If internal collaborators are considered under institutional support, should we get letters of support from our internal collaborators?	Supporting letters indicating the agreement of the collaborator(s) to the proposed collaboration and detailing their contribution to the project in terms of resources or expertise can be uploaded in the Project Partner section of the form.
Do Project Partners need to be in place for the full duration of the Fellowship? (In this case, collaborating with a PI who would be planning on retiring in a few years)	A Project Partner may be required to assist in a specific part of the work, so are not required to be in place for the full duration of the fellowship.
Can you collaborate with industry for the Discovery Fellowship?	Yes, industrial collaborations are perfectly acceptable.
Can you please give us few more details on the PI response and the feedback from the reviewer process?	<p>The purpose of the PI response is to provide the applicant an opportunity to respond to, rebut, or address any specific points raised by reviewers. It can be used to clarify reviewer misunderstandings or provide additional supporting information for the proposal. In reaching its final decision, the Committee assess the application, reviewer comments and the applicant response against the assessment criteria.</p> <p>The TFS functionality for administering the process is nearing completion, but currently we are unable to provide details on how this will run through TFS</p>
Are reference letters required (e.g. from PhD or postdoc supervisor)?	No, but they can supply letters of support if you wish.
Can we still request certain reviewers to not be contacted?	Yes. This should be provided via an email to <a href="mailto:support@funding-service@ukri.org">support@funding-service@ukri.org</a> Full details are provided in the Application section 'Sensitive information relating to you as an applicant'

Question	Answer
What would be considered as strong support from the institute? What is considered to be the best support that the institute can give?	This can depend on the nature the project and your choice of host. Details can be found on the <a href="#">Funding Finder</a> page (in section 'What we are looking for') but support can cover financial support for equipment, consumables, facilities, lab space travel, training as well as other in-kind support that is non-financial - for example career development opportunities and mentorship
Is there a limit to the number of Discovery fellowships held per institution?	There is no limit on how many applications can be submitted from a research organisation, department, or host lab, and there is no disadvantage to applicants. All proposals are assessed separately by the reviewers and the Committee
What is the earliest start date for a fellowship in this round?  Is there a deadline for the latest possible start state?	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2024  1 <sup>st</sup> July 2024
Can we use the similar application/research basis for seeking for other job opportunities?	You can submit the same application to other funders outside of UKRI, however you can't submit the same one to another research council – the projects must be within the specific remit of the research council
Is there any way to indicate that I am recognized as a disabled worker in my country of origin? And how does it will be taken into account in my application?	You are not required to disclose this information if you do not wish to. However, you can use the section 'Sensitive information relating to you as an applicant' to provide us with sensitive information you need to tell us that you do not want shared with assessors. Full details on how to complete this section are included in within the Question.  BBSRC will ensure adjustments are made throughout the assessment process where appropriate, for example regarding interview attendance to assist individual applicants. Full details on this can be found in the <a href="#">Equality Impact Assessment</a> document, under Additional info on the Funding Finder
Can we access data on application success rates?	Fellowship award rates are available in our <a href="#">diversity data releases</a> . Online <a href="#">Tableau</a> visualisations are available which can be filtered by council and role. Please note that the fellow role covers all BBSRC fellowships, not just Discovery Fellowships.
Will project summaries from prior successful fellows be available online?	Project summaries can be found on the <a href="#">UKRI Gateway to Research</a> . You can filter by BBSRC and Fellowship

Question	Answer
<p>Is there a possibility of no cost extension to project tenure? or Can we request for additional funding?</p>	<p>The Fellowship may be extended after the Official Start Date by up to 12 months without additional funding subject to prior written approval. It may also be extended to cover familial leave, extended jury service, or paid sick leave after the Official Start Date, for a period in line with the Terms and Conditions of the Fellow's employment. For further information, see the <a href="#">UKRI fEC Grant Guidance</a> document.</p> <p>You cannot however request additional funding.</p>
<p>Does the host University require to promise a permanent position after the end of fellowship?</p> <p>My university categorically does not offer permanent positions to holders of 3-year fellowships. Is that a problem?</p> <p>If the research work needs to be held at a specific institute due to the nature of the work, but the institute is unable to provide a guarantee for a permanent position, will this be an issue? Or is possible to have a clause where a permanent position will only be offered by the institute based on performance of the fellow?</p>	<p>It is not a requirement that the host offers a permanent post at the end of the fellowship, however most fellows have secured a permanent post by the end of their fellowship.</p> <p>In choosing a host organisation you should ensure that it is the best place in terms of delivering the proposed research programme as well as supporting opportunities for career development.</p>
<p>Can fellows relocate during the fellowship time?</p> <p>If plans change and the fellow decides that they would like to pursue a permanent position at an alternative institute, would it be advisable to relocate to this other institute during the fellowship? Alternatively, would it be equally possible to complete an application to an alternative institute for an independent fellowship after the Discovery fellowship?</p>	<p>Yes, you can relocate the fellowship during its tenure, following approval from BBSRC and the Committee.</p> <p>You can apply for other awards to be taken up at the end of the Discovery Fellowship during its tenure.</p>

Question	Answer
Is there any support for maternity/ paternity leave while on a fellowship?	The fellowship can be paused to cover periods of maternity, paternity, and parental leave. Other support will be based on local arrangements within the host organisation, and this will vary across institutions.
If circumstances change, is it possible to pause the fellowship for an agreed period?	This would be looked at on a case-by-case basis.
Is there any help with childcare/childcare costs for events organised by BBSRC and would that be an extra application at the time or would it have to be costed in from the beginning?	Costs for childcare during attendance at BBSRC events would be covered by BBSRC. These arrangements will be in place at the time of the event, so you do not need to cost this into your application.
If awarded, can we apply for Responsive mode grants in the last half of the 3 year fellowship?  Can fellowship awardees be Co-I on other BBSRC grants?	To apply to responsive mode as PI or Co-I, applicants currently must hold a position at lecturer or equivalent. The Discovery Fellowship is not at that level, so holders of a Discovery Fellowship are currently not eligible to apply to responsive mode
Can administrators edit applications before submission on the UKRI TFS system (as we could with Je-S view/edit access?)	Currently administrators cannot edit the applications before submission, but they can be returned to the PI to make amendments.
Is there an option to download / view application questions (e.g. as a PDF) so it can be worked on offline?	Yes, you can, once you start an application, navigate to read view, print -> Save as PDF Alternatively, the Funding Finder page has details of all the questions.
Are figures and tables allowed in the vision and approach sections?	Tables will be permitted in the text box; figures will be via attachment - further details are available in TFS
Why have you decided to use a Word Document for the resources? This requires more manual calculation than Je-S and leaves a lot of room for error	TFS is an agile programme, we are developing features that will address this, for the time being we are using a word template to collect the information required.
In the application there is allowance for 6 figures. Are we allowed to have multiple panels in each figure? And does the word count include labels on graph axes?	6 figures is the limit. The word count is for the description of the figure.

Question	Answer
<p>How are pre award research support able to support applicants, as there isn't an option for research support to be added to the application? The application goes straight to the research office who aren't involved in the application before submission.</p>	<p>Applications can be saved by the PI as a PDF and shared with others to do this. TFS will continue to build additional functionality which will enable co-editing.</p>
<p>In the new application structure, where does the background explaining the rationale to the project go - is this 'Vision' or 'Approach'?</p>	<p>This can be detailed in the Approach section, as described in the guidance within the Question.</p>
<p>How can we see how the final application will look like when submitted to BBSRC (is this by saving the application as a PDF?)</p>	<p>The "read view" will show you exactly what the assessors and BBSRC will see, you can also save this as a PDF too.</p>