2025 Transformative Research Technologies Frequently asked questions

We held a webinar on 9 December 2025 at 11am, which provided more information about the funding opportunity and a chance to ask questions.

This document contains frequently asked questions from the 25TRT and previous TRT applicant webinars.

Scope

Who makes the judgement if the proposal is out of scope?

BBSRC staff will check through all applications to ensure they are within the scope of the opportunity. Where necessary, BBSRC may seek advice from a member of the assessment panel to confirm the decision. Any decision regarding whether a proposal is deemed to be within scope or not will be made at the discretion of BBSRC and will be considered as final. Please ensure you make a clear case for relevance to 25TRT's scope, as described in the opportunity guidance.

In terms of remit/scope, is the scheme mainly targeted to software development? Or would you also consider the development of hardware?

25TRT is open to both software and hardware technology development that offers the potential for transformative impact in bioscience research. Development of new, 'wet lab' experimental techniques are also permitted. Please see our opportunity guidance for more detail on scope. If you are unsure about whether your planned project would be appropriate for this opportunity, send an outline (no more than 2 sides of A4) of what you plan to do to support@funding-service.ukri.org and BBSRC staff will be happy to advise you.

Can you comment on what would be considered 'early-stage' and how much preliminary data is required?

We recognise that 'early-stage' can include many different levels of technology development. In general, we are looking for technology development projects that have little to no preliminary data. It is the responsibility of the applicants to make a case for why their project represents a cutting-edge, early-stage and potentially transformative idea. Applications which already contain considerable amounts of preliminary data could be more appropriate for BBSRC's standard research grant, which supports more established technology development proposals.

Will this be an annual call, and will future calls have the same broad remit, or are they likely to be limited to particular technology areas?

The TRT opportunity is essentially built on the previous Tools and Resources Development Fund (TRDF) and is expected to run annually. Although 25TRT offers an open scope that spans early-stage technology development across BBSRC's remit, the scope of future TRT rounds will be reviewed and may change from year to year.

I have a question about my project and its suitability for this opportunity.

For any specific remit and scope queries, please send an email to technology.development@bbsrc.ukri.org, including the title and a one to two page summary of your project.

Eligibility

What are the eligibility requirements for 25TRT?

Standard BBSRC eligibility criteria apply for 25TRT. Please check if you are eligible to apply and contact support@funding-service.ukri.org if you have any further questions.

I am a Research Technical Professional (RTP). Am I eligible to apply as Project-Lead?

BBSRC recognises the leadership potential of RTPs and welcomes applications of technical staff as Project lead (PL) or Project Co-lead (PcL).

RTPs are eligible to apply to 25TRT as PL, provided they have substantial research experience and a level of responsibility in their role which is equivalent to academic lecturer level. RTPs who do not meet this criteria can be named in the application as Researcher Co-lead.

My contract ends soon. Can I apply to 25TRT?

If your current contract does not extend beyond the duration of the proposed project, you can apply if you have an assurance from your organisation that, if the application is successful, a pre-existing contract of employment will be extended or a new contract will be put in place.

Would you encourage industrial partners to be involved?

This is up to you and if you consider their involvement in the project as beneficial to the success of the project. We can't fund industrial partners or businesses at BBSRC, so they won't be able to be in the core team. You may wish to involve them, this is typically as project partners. Project partners are expected to provide contributions to the delivery of the project and should not therefore be seeking to claim funds from UKRI. See the guidance for applicants and collaborations.

Resources and costing

What types of resources can the grant be spent on (e.g. staff, consumables, equipment, etc)?

Please see BBSRC's costing guidance for details on costs to include in a BBSRC research grant. You need to demonstrate how the resources you anticipate needing for your proposed work are comprehensive, appropriate, and justified. Further guidance is given in the TFS application form.

Are there requirements for PL time on the grant?

There is no minimum requirement for PL time on the grant. This is up to you to decide and discuss with your Research Office.

How much can we spend towards equipment?

Applicants can request equipment if necessary to the proposed project. There is no defined upper limit on what proportion of the requested cost falls into a particular category within the overall limit of £180K. However, applicants must be able to demonstrate that their project fits the scope of 25TRT. Applicants are expected to fully justify the need for any resources that are requested (including equipment). Please see our guidance on Directly Incurred costs for more information about equipment.

Can the opportunity support the salary of an RTP?

Yes, costs can be requested for project lead and co-lead(s) salaries, which we encourage RTPs to apply for.

Application

Is there an option to include letters of support from stakeholders who would benefit from the technology developed in the project?

No, letters of support are not required in 25TRT applications. This is to reduce the amount of work in writing the application and to reduce bureaucracy within the assessment process. You can state the opportunity for the technology to be developed and its benefits for the community within the proposal instead.

As funding may be required to maintain/support/deliver the project after TRT, is a commercial opportunity planned seen as beneficial? Should this be included in the application?

If this is planned there is no harm in including it in your application, but be aware of the limit to the word count. We recommend focussing on the TRT project itself in your application.

Assessment

How will conflicts of interest be assessed?

Each member of the assessment panel will be required to provide a complete list of conflicts upon being invited to the panel and update us of any new conflicts that arise during the assessment process. BBSRC ensure that those conflicted on an application are unable to view, and therefore influence, any of the assessment discussions.

Will we receive feedback on our applications?

Yes, all applications assessed by the panel will receive feedback after the assessment has concluded, regardless of whether they are unsuccessful or successful. You will be informed by email.

General

Is a list of funded projects from previous rounds of TRT available?

Lists of funded projects from 23TRT and from 24TRT can be found online. A news story on the outcomes of 23TRT has also been published.

Regarding demand management: Is there an expectation on Universities/Institutions to manage demand internally before submission, or is there no limit on application numbers from institutions?

There is an expectation for universities/institutions to take a co-ordinated approach when submitting multiple applications, carefully considering the scope of the opportunity. You can only apply as a project lead on one application. However, you

can still be project co-lead on multiple applications. Please see our opportunity guidance for more details on demand management.

Would we have to declare any other funding sources that the project may have received?

There is no requirement to declare other funding sources for the project.

Can the idea of an unsuccessful application be resubmitted/used in future grant applications?

BBSRC does not accept resubmissions. For further information please consult our resubmission policy.

Will there still be a resources call?

Yes, BBSRC supports biological and bioinformatics resources through our BBR awards each year. Applications for community resources such as databases and infrastructures will not be eligible for 25TRT and are better suited to the BBR awards.

What does BBSRC's intellectual property policy look like? Generally, and for this grant?

BBSRC delegates responsibility for the identification, management and application of intellectual assets arising from research funded by the Council to the host institution. This includes identifying and managing intellectual property and where they arise intellectual property rights, which BBSRC appreciates, in certain circumstances, can be central to delivering commercial benefit from research outcomes. We therefore recommend that you contact your institution's technology transfer office (or equivalent) for advice.

To be in line with Trusted Research and Innovation (TR&I) requirements, is using services from non-UK based companies possible (as a subcontractor and not a collaborator)?

Yes, you can subcontract to non-UK based companies, but it needs to be justified why subcontracting is the most feasible option. You must also carry out appropriate due diligence of third parties and you may be required to explain to UKRI how you are managing considerations and risks relating to TR&I, further information can be found in RGC 2.6.1 and 2.71.