



Biotechnology and
Biological Sciences
Research Council

Early Career Researcher Fellowship Opportunities

6th May 2021

Harriet Tyson – Assistant Portfolio Manager,
Research and Innovation Funding Delivery

First Steps: Fellowships

BBSRC

- Discovery Fellowship (DF)
- David Phillips Fellowship – no longer running

UKRI

- Future Leader Fellowship (FLF)

Future Leader Fellowship: Overview

For ECRs and innovators transitioning to or establishing independence

You must clearly demonstrate:

- how the FLF award will support and enable your long-term career goals
- broad knowledge of the area of interest and vision for its importance
- your own original and ambitious plans/ideas and can take a leading role in your area
- the suitability of the proposed environment(s)

FLF: Who can apply?

There is no limit on years since PhD

No requirement to hold a PhD for those applying from business, but need to demonstrate equivalent research/innovation experience and/or training

Call spans all areas of UKRI remit including multi- and interdisciplinary projects

Supportive of diverse career paths



FLF: Funding

Awards are made for up to 7 years (funded for 4 with option to extend for further 3)

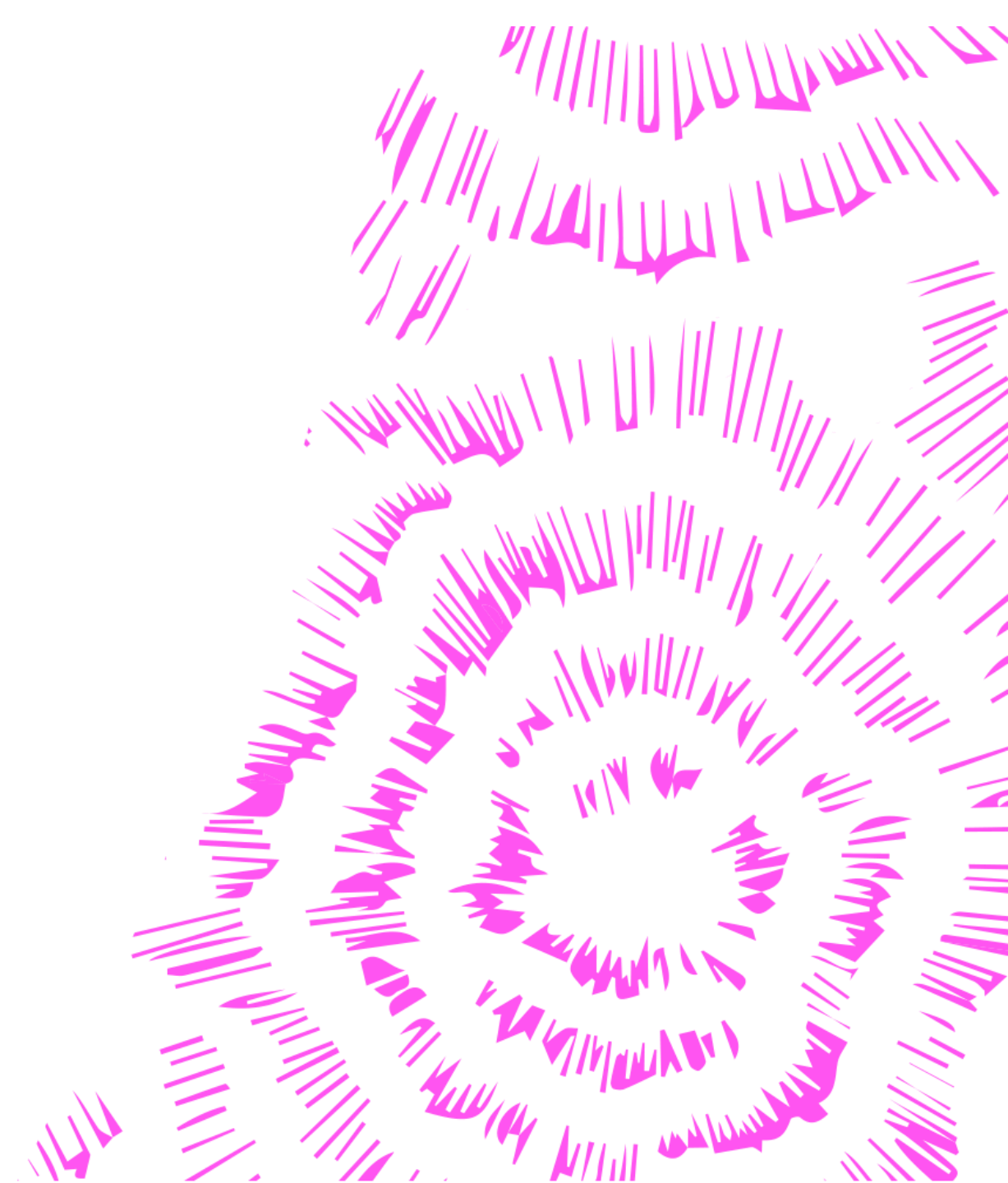
No limit to amount of requested funding but must be justified

Fellowship will provide salary support, equipment, T&S, estate costs etc.



Biotechnology and
Biological Sciences
Research Council

BBSRC Discovery Fellowship



Discovery Fellowship: Overview

Provide support for researchers wishing to undertake independent research

Applicants must have completed a successful PhD viva

You must show you:

- have potential to become a future research leader
- wish to conduct your own independent research within a host lab
- wish to gain leadership skills



DF: Who can apply?

There is no limit on the number of years of postdoc experience

Applicants must **not** have held a post of lecturer level or an equivalent competitive Fellowship that provides the opportunity to:

- supervise PhD students
- establish an independent research group

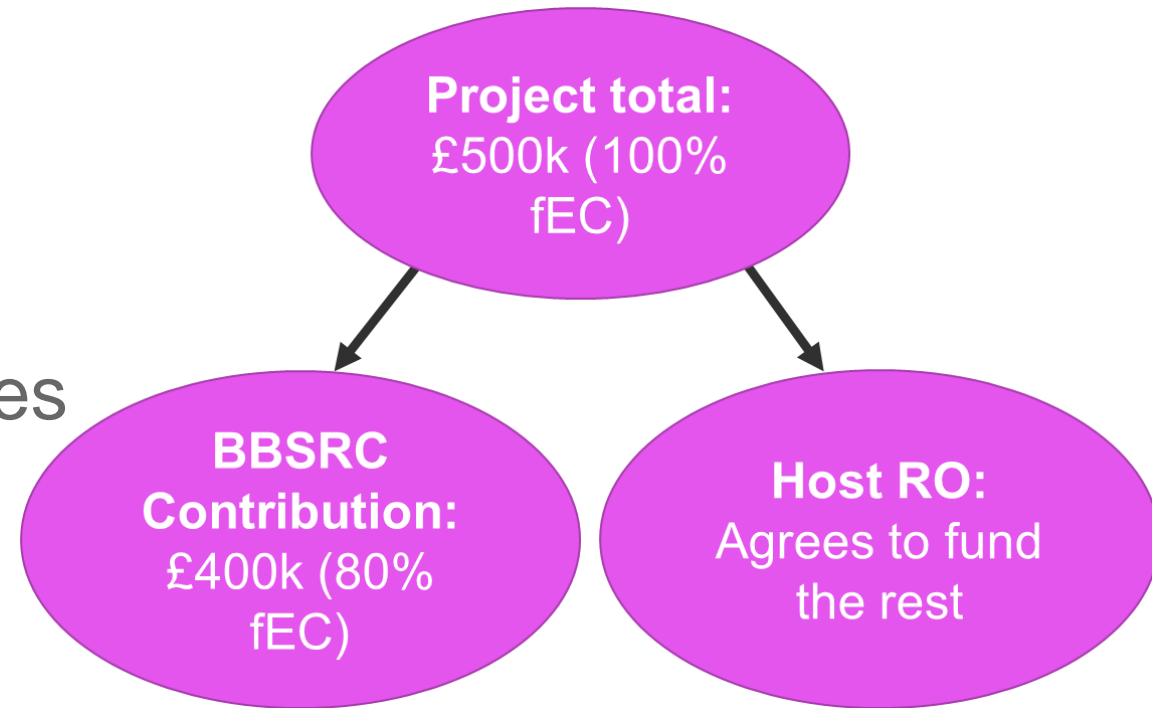
Applicants **can't** have applied for BBSRC grant funding as a PI or Co-Investigator

DF: Funding

Awards are made for 3 years

Funding can support:

- Personal salary, T&S, training activities and research consumables
- **NOT** equipment



DF – Application Process

Apply through Je-S

- Pass application to host institute for submission in advance of deadline!

Pro forma

- Choice of host institute
- Objectives/technical summary/summary
- Academic beneficiaries
- Commercial exploitation/application (if applicable)
- Resources requested



DF – Application Process

- Case for support
- CV
- Justification of resources
- Head of department statement (support)
- Statement from host group PI
- Workplan (Gantt chart)
- Data management plan
- Career development plan

DF – Assessment Process

- Eligibility and scientific remit
- External experts assess scientific content of research project – **rebuttals!**
- Candidates are selected for interview by Committee E
- Approx. 1/3 applicants invited to interview are expected to be successful

Office
checks

Peer
review

Panel
sift

Presentation
and
interviews

DF – Assessment criteria

Project

- Scientific quality and feasibility of research
- Timeliness of research and how it will advance the field

Person

- Track record
- Evidence of independence and leadership
- How the fellowship will advance the applicant's career

DF – Assessment criteria

Research environment

- Scientific environment of host department and institute
- Evidence of career and professional development support
- Evidence of research support

DF – Scoring

1-6 scoring range (unfundable to exceptional)

Exceptional applicant

- “Applicant who, **for their career stage**, has clearly demonstrated **very strong credentials as an independent researcher** and is **already recognised as being a future leader** within their field.”

Exceptional research programme

- “Applicant is proposing a scientific project that is **timely** and which is expected to **allow** the candidate to **establish themselves as a leader** in the field and provide **scope for future research** directions.”

DF – Scoring

Exceptional research environment

- “The proposed **research environment** is **fully justified** as being the **best place** in which to carry out the research, and there is a **clear commitment** from the **host institution** to support the candidate.”

Features of an excellent application

- Evidence of **career progression/trajectory**;
- Evidence of outputs or **markers of esteem**;
- Evidence of **strong** support from Host PI and RO;
- Evidence of how the research programme is going to **advance the field**

Moving forwards

Seek advice

- Recent successful applicants
- Research colleagues
- Institute research office
- Research council

But carefully manage this advice

- Not all advice is good, accurate or reflect current realities



Biotechnology and
Biological Sciences
Research Council

Thank you



BBSRC



@BBSRC



BBSRCmedia