



Strategic Priorities and Funding Opportunities

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Supporting world-class bioscience is a key priority

BBSRC strategic plan: The age of bioscience

“driven by new tools and technologies”

....never before have researchers been able to address such a breadth and depth of biological questions....

www.bbsrc.ac.uk/strategy



Three major strategic priorities

Agriculture and food security



Industrial biotechnology and bioenergy



Bioscience for health

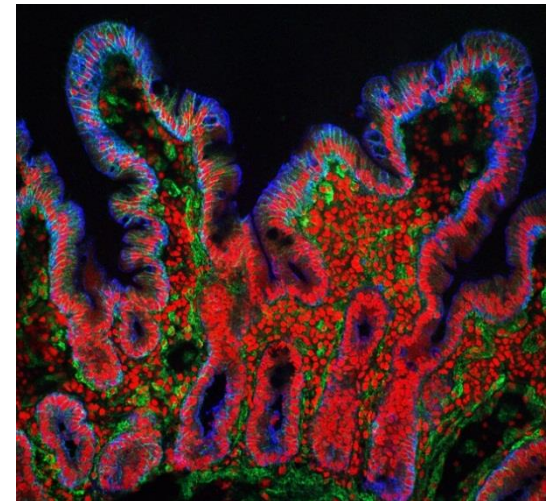


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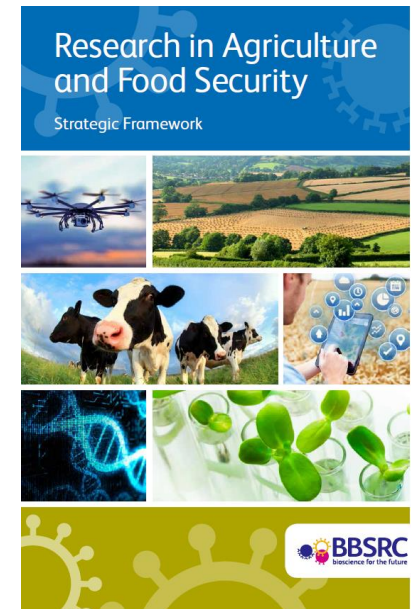
Agriculture and Food Security priorities

Bioscience for sustainable and productive agriculture, supplying not only sufficient, nutritious and safe **food** but also **non-food** products, in a rapidly changing world

New strategic framework launched July 2017

Six focus areas identified:

- Sustainable agricultural systems
- Crop and farmed animal health
- Food safety and nutrition
- Reducing waste
- Understanding and exploiting genomics
- Precision agriculture and smart technologies



Available online

Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy priorities

Energy, industrial materials and biopharmaceuticals, developed and produced using biological processes from a wide range of feedstocks including wastes and residues, reducing dependency on fossil carbon and helping drive the UK bioeconomy

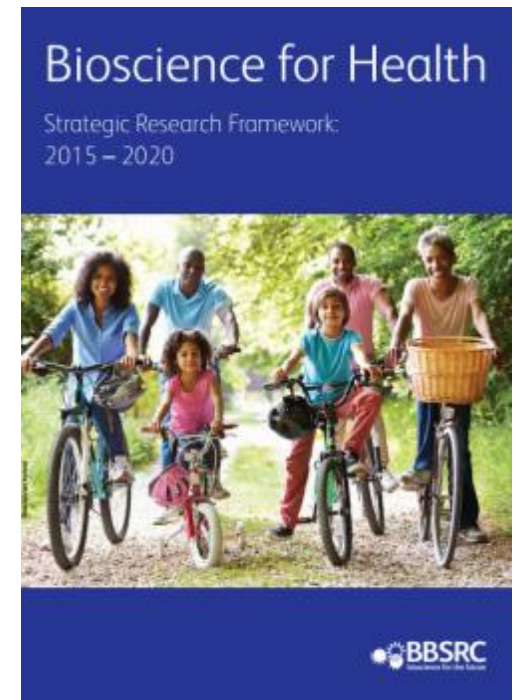
- **Industrial Biotechnology:** Innovative approaches using biological resources and systems in manufacturing routes for fine chemicals, bulk chemicals and biopharmaceuticals
- **Bioenergy:** Liquid and gaseous biofuels
- Emphasis on **systems and synthetic approaches**



Bioscience for Health priorities

Driving advances in fundamental bioscience for better health across the lifecycle, reducing the need for medical and social intervention.

- **Lifelong Health** – Maintain and develop health across the life course.
- **Nutrition and Health** – How nutrition affects health
- **One Health** – Dedicated to improving lives of all species(human and animal)
- **Biotechnology for Health** – New knowledge to advance regenerative biology and tissue engineering



Frontier Bioscience

- Pioneering, curiosity-driven research is fundamental to BBSRC's mission as the UK's primary public investor in bioscience
- Our frontier bioscience theme gives high priority to world-class discovery research that provides fundamental insights into biology
- We believe that frontier research is essential to ensure the UK remains a global leader and will continue to champion frontier bioscience in making the case for investment

cutting-edge
inventive radical
far-reaching
frontier
blue-skies
curiosity-driven
discovery science
original fundamental
transformational
pioneering
paradigm-changing
adventurous
creative
leading

Current Funding Opportunities

Please visit the **Funding Opportunities Page** on the BBSRC website for a full list of open calls: <https://bbsrc.ukri.org/funding/filter/>


October



Enterprise Fellowships
20 Aug 2018 - 31 Oct 2018
Future


Related calls: [collaboration](#) [commercialisation](#) [fellowships](#) [industry](#) [innovation](#) [research](#) [technologies](#) [skills](#) and [training](#)

September



'Stand-alone' LINK
Deadline: 25 September 2018, 16:00
Open

Related calls: [collaboration](#) [industry](#) [innovation](#) [partnerships](#) [responsive mode](#)



Responsive mode application deadlines
Deadline: 25 September 2018, 16:00
Open

Related calls: [responsive mode](#)




Industrial Partnership Awards (IPA)
Deadline: 25 September 2018, 16:00
Open

Related calls: [collaboration](#) [industry](#) [innovation](#) [partnerships](#) [responsive mode](#)



BBSRC-Brazil (FAPESP) joint funding of research
Deadline: 25 September 2018, 16:00
Open


Related calls: [collaboration](#) [international](#) [partnerships](#) [responsive mode](#)



New Investigator Scheme
Deadline: 25 September 2018, 16:00
Open

Related calls: [early career](#) [responsive mode](#)


July



UK-Mexico Newton Fund: Improving Mexican Crop Resilience to Abiotic Stress
Deadline: 19 July 2018, 16:00
Open

Related calls: [agriculture](#) [collaboration](#) [crops](#) [food](#) [genetics](#) [Newton Fund](#) [partnerships](#)

June




Strategic Longer and Larger grants: Frontier bioscience
Deadline: 22 June 2018, 16:00
Open **Registration**

Related calls: [multidisciplinary](#) [responsive mode](#)




BBSRC-NSF/BIO Lead Agency Opportunity
Deadline: 12 June 2018, 22:00
Open **Expression of interest**

Related calls: [bioinformatics](#) [collaboration](#) [microbes](#) [multidisciplinary](#) [responsive mode](#) [synthetic biology](#)



UKRI Future Leader Fellowships
Deadline: 7 June 2018, 16:00
Open **Expression of interest**


Related calls: [early career](#) [fellowships](#) [people](#) [skills](#) and [training](#)



Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy in the Developing World
Deadline: 6 June 2018, 16:00
Open

Related calls: [crops](#) [energy](#) [GCRF](#) [industrial biotechnology](#) [multidisciplinary](#) [plants](#)

May



Resilience of the UK food system in a global context third call: Transforming the food system for health, sustainability and resilience across production and demand
Deadline: 23 May 2018, 16:00
Open

Related calls: [agriculture](#) [collaboration](#) [crops](#) [early career](#) [food](#) [livestock](#)

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Responsive Mode

Applications can be submitted at any time for consideration by one of the 4 Research Committees. The next Responsive Mode closing date is **25 September, 2018**.

- **Research Committee A** (Animal disease, health and welfare)
- **Research Committee B** (Plants, microbes, food and sustainability)
- **Research Committee C** (Genes, development and STEM* approaches to biology)
- **Research Committee D** (Molecules, cells and industrial biotechnology)

There is considerable overlap between Research Committees. We will assess applications using the most appropriate expertise.

*Science Technology Engineering and Maths - Committee C will consider generic STEM approaches to biology; specific applications will be considered by the Committee providing the appropriate biological context.

Other opportunities via Responsive Mode

- **New Investigator scheme:** assists early career researchers to secure their first major element of research funding.
- **Stand-alone LINK:** supports collaborative research projects between at least one company and one academic partner. At least 50% of the full project cost comes from industry.
- **Industrial Partnership Awards (IPA):** support collaboration between academic research groups and industry. Industry partner(s) contributes in cash at least equivalent to 10% of the full project costs.

BBSRC – NSF/BIO Lead agency opportunity

- The US National Science Foundation (NSF) and BBSRC have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Research Cooperation.
- The lead agency scheme allows US and UK researchers to submit a single collaborative proposal that will undergo a single review process by the lead agency, on behalf of both NSF/BIO and BBSRC.
- Scheme does not represent new or ring-fenced funding (assessment via responsive mode)

Proposals relevant to the following priority areas and agency programs are eligible to apply for the lead agency scheme in 2018:

- **Biological informatics:** Development of novel informatics approaches and cyber infrastructure resources to enable novel and effective use of data in biological research.
- **Synthetic approaches to address fundamental biological questions**

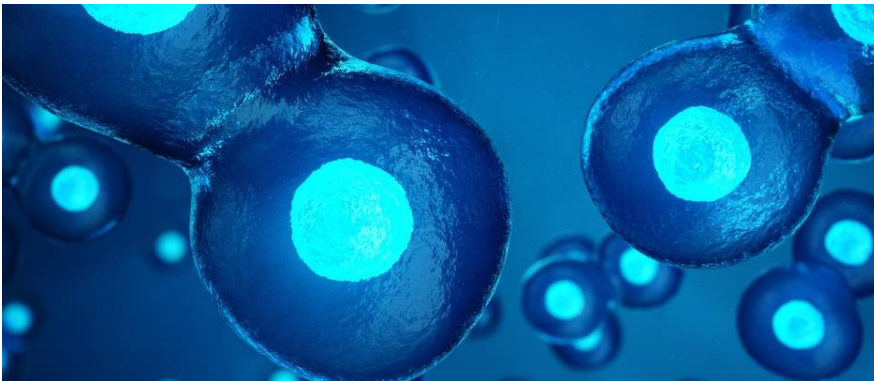
Intention to submit deadline: **12th June 2018** (identify lead agency, check eligibility/scope)

Full application deadline: In alignment with lead agency process – BBSRC
25th September



New sLOLA: Frontier Bioscience

- The 2018/19 strategic Longer and Larger (sLoLa) call invites proposals focused on frontier bioscience: leading-edge discovery research that addresses significant fundamental questions in bioscience.
- The indicative budget for the call is up to **£16 million**. Proposals must be over **£2 million** (100% FEC project value) and can be up to **five years in duration**.
- To produce major advances, proposals are expected to employ (or develop) the latest technologies, methods and approaches that will result in world leading capability in bioscience within the UK.



New sLOLA: Frontier Bioscience – live 3rd May

Timeline	
Activity	Deadline
Call webinar	15 May 2018, 12:15-13:15
Registration deadline (mandatory)	22 June 2018
Outline application deadline	12 July 2018, 16:00
Outcomes and feedback to successful applicants	September 2018
Full application (invite only) deadline	16 January 2019, 16:00 (TBC)
Assessment of full proposal (responsive mode Research Committees)	22-23 May 2019
Interviews by Strategic Lola Committee	June 2019 (TBC)

Webinar: 15th May 2018, 12:15-13:15

The Webinar will be recorded and made available to those who have registered

Contact:

sLoLa grants

Email: bbsrc.lolagrants@bbsrc.ac.uk

Global Challenges Research Fund



- £1.5Bn over 5 years
- Announced by the UK Government in late 2015

- Promote challenge-led disciplinary and interdisciplinary research.
- Strengthen capability for research, innovation and knowledge exchange in the UK and developing countries through partnership with excellent UK research and researchers.
- Provide an agile response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need.

GCRF Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy in the Developing World

- Utilising different **biogenic feedstocks** (e.g. crop residues) and **biological processes** for the purpose of **generating multiple (valuable) products** (e.g. energy, pharmaceutical/ chemical precursors and clean water).
- The use of bioremediation to make waste treatment “resource recovery” oriented rather than “resource consuming”
-for the purpose of supporting economic development and improved human welfare in the developing world.
- Grants up to £2M each over c. 3 years.

Timetable	
Call opens	16 April 2018
Application deadline	6 June 2018, 16:00
Funding decisions	November/December 2018
Projects to start	3 January 2019



Newton Fund

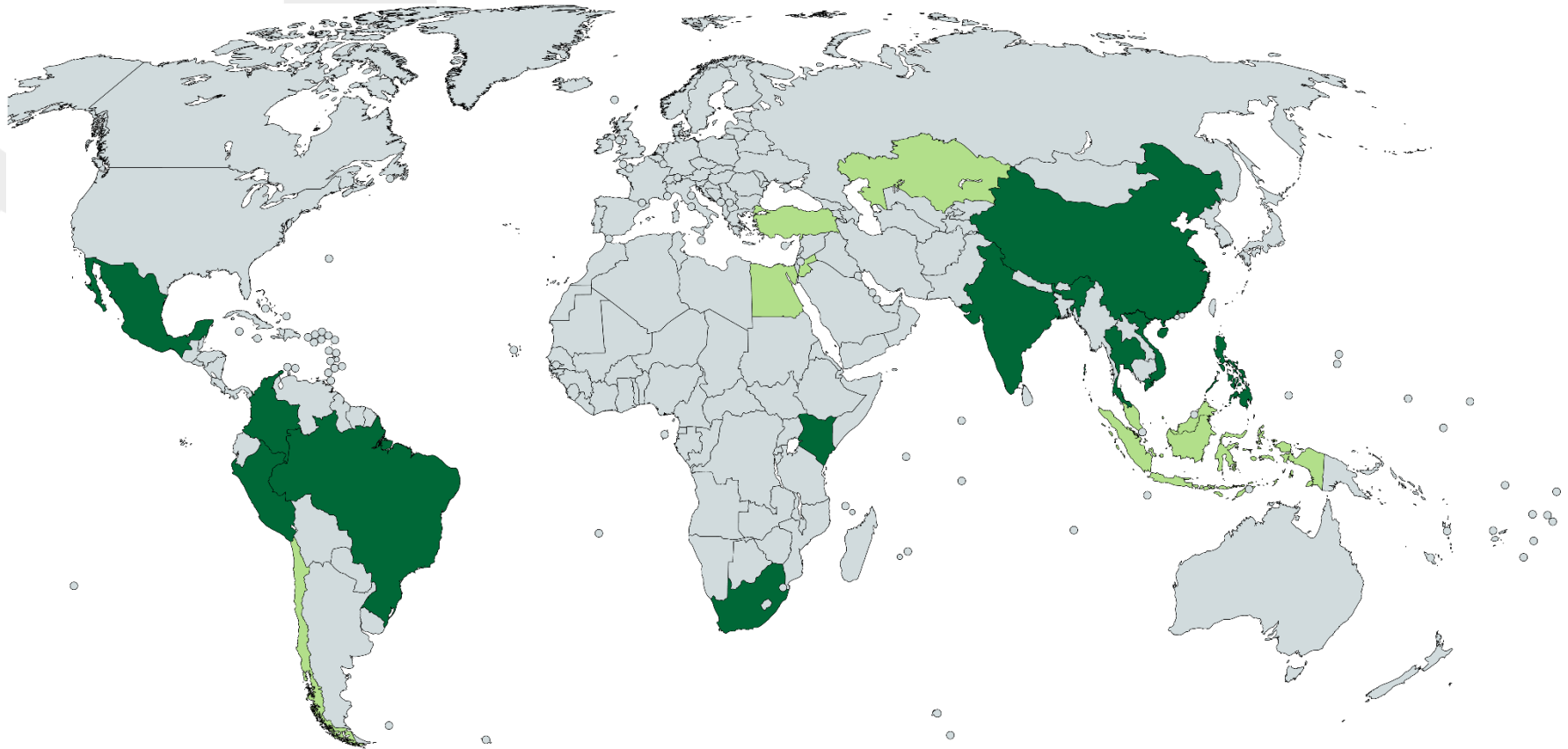


- £735M from 2014 to 2021 to support research and innovation partnerships between the UK and 18 countries
- UK investment is matched by investment from partner countries/funders
- 3 pillars of activity: People, Research, Translation

Key objectives:

- To promote the economic development and social welfare of partner countries
- To build strong, sustainable and systemic relationships with partner countries

BBSRC as a Newton Fund Delivery Partner



Dark Green = Active programme; Light Green = Other Newton Fund country

UK-Mexico Newton Fund – Improving Mexican Crop Resilience to Abiotic Stress

- Collaborative call between the BBSRC and Mexican partners:
 - Science and Technology Councils of Colima State (Cecytcol), Jalisco State (Coecytjal) and Sonora State (Coecyt).
- Mechanisms to better adapt Mexican crops to environmental stress (drought, heat, salinity etc).
- Focus:
 - Crop genetics
 - Crop/environment interactions
 - Precision, smart technology and data to address abiotic stress
- Funding of up to £3.2 million from BBSRC available to support successful UK applicants, with funding of up to \$5 million MXN from Colima, \$5 million MXN from Jalisco and \$20 million MXN from Sonora, to support successful Mexican applicants in their respective states.
- Projects up to three years in duration

UK-Mexico Newton Fund – Improving Mexican Crop Resilience to Abiotic Stress

Summary timetable

Call opens	17 April 2018
Web-based seminar	9 May 2018 (1600 BST; 1000 Mexico City)
Application deadline	19 July 2018, 16:00
Peer review	End July 2018 - end September 2018
Panel meeting	TBC (October 2018)
Announcing	End October 2018 - mid November 2018
Grant spend	Mexico: End November 2018 - October 2021 UK: Beginning January 2019 - December 2021

Webinar: 9th May 2018 (1600 BST; 1000 Mexico City):

The Webinar will be recorded and made available on the call webpage after the event.

NB Webinar will cover methods of finding partners

International Collaboration

BBSRC grant holders/institute staff in receipt of BBSRC funding:

Partnering Awards

- Japan, China, India, Brazil, Taiwan and the US
- 'Other Countries' and 'European' schemes launched 2013
- Aims to benefit BBSRC-funded research:
 - To establish new links
 - Promote exchange of scientists
 - Provide access to facilities
 - Enable UK scientists to access overseas funding
- Partnerships for up to 4 years
- £20k - £50k
- Annual Call: mid September - mid November

International Workshops

- Stimulate joint working in topics important to BBSRC
- Annual Call: mid September - mid November
- Typically up to £10k



UK Research and Innovation



Future Leaders Fellowships

Overview of Future Leaders Fellowships

- Will grow the strong supply of talented individuals needed to ensure that UK research and innovation continues to be world class
- Do so by attracting, developing and retaining the most promising future leaders at a known career pinch point
- £900m to be committed over 3 years (6 rounds), supporting ~200 individuals per year for up to 7 years (4+3) – First round smaller
- New funds from the National Productivity Investment Fund

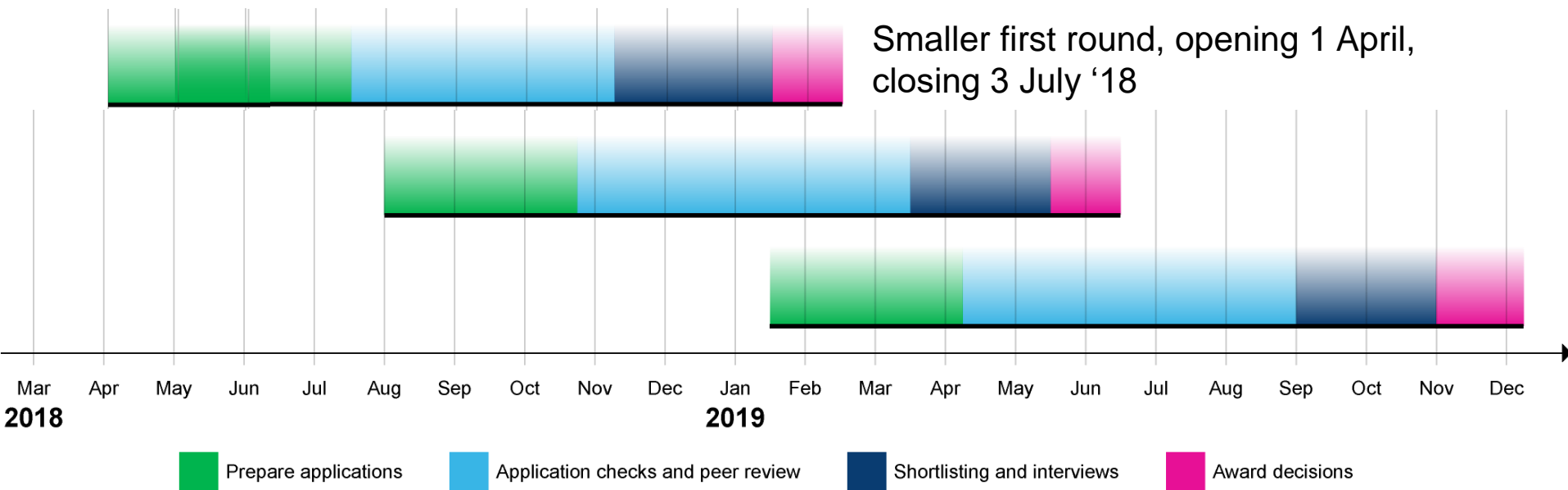
How are Future Leaders Fellowships different?

- Open across entire UKRI remit, no barriers to interdisciplinarity
- Open to individuals based in business or Universities, and working with other research and use environments
- Provide long term funding (4-7 years) to tackle adventurous programmes or multidisciplinary questions
- Academic employer commitment: tapered salary support and up-front follow-on position.

Decision making process

- Two stage review:
 1. Written peer review by sector / discipline experts
 2. Shortlisting and interview by panel of senior decision makers
- Role of the panel
 - **Shortlisting**: moderate peer-review across areas (academia, industry, hybrid) and disciplines / multidisciplinary
 - **Interview**: test candidates leadership potential and the additionality of the fellowship

Timelines



Remit and Eligibility Queries

Remit

- All decisions **project based** – your background, department or past funding do not determine remit eligibility
- Check the BBSRC website: <https://bbsrc.ukri.org/funding/apply/>
If in doubt, **send 1-2 page outline to office:** remit@bbsrc.ac.uk

Eligibility

- Details are in the **Grants Guide:**
<https://bbsrc.ukri.org/documents/grants-guide/>
- Always **check with the Office** if in doubt-before submission:
eligibility@bbsrc.ac.uk



Thank you

Fellowship opportunities

- **Discovery Fellowships** (previously future leader fellowships) and **David Philips Fellowships**:
 - Support for researchers wishing to undertake independent research and gain leadership skills, or wishing to establish their first independent research group.
- **Enterprise Fellowship**:
 - Enable the recipient to concentrate on developing the commercial potential of their research, whilst also receiving formal training in relevant business skills (open to those who have received BBSRC funding).

Contact

Innovation and Skills Group - Fellowships
Email: postdoc.fellowships@bbsrc.ac.uk

Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund



- ~£2Bn fund, delivered by **UK Research and Innovation**
- Supports the Government's Industrial Strategy
- Will build on the UK's world-class research base and deliver the science that business needs to **transform existing industries** and **create new ones**
- **Accelerates commercial exploitation** of the most exciting technologies the UK has to offer the world to ensure that scientific investment truly **delivers economic impact, jobs and growth right across the country**
- Programmes delivered by the fund will be **industry-led** and powered by **multi-disciplinary research and business-academic collaboration**

ISCF Wave 2 Challenges (£729.5m)



Audience of the future (up to £33m)



Data to early diagnosis and precision medicine (up to £196m)



Prospering from the energy revolution (up to £103m)



Healthy ageing (up to £98m)



Next generation services (up to £20m)



Quantum technology (up to £20m)



Transforming construction (up to £170m)



Transforming food production (up to £90m)





Transforming food production

The challenge is that our food needs to be much more efficient and sustainable. By using precision technologies we can make that a reality: transform food production while reducing emissions, pollution, waste, and soil erosion. By putting the UK at the forefront of this global revolution in farming, we will delivering benefits to farmers, the environment and consumers while driving growth, jobs and exports.

Panel principles

- Composed of senior individuals with track record of decision making across areas and disciplines
- Include recognised leaders of basic and applied research, knowledge creation and use, from industry, academia and public service.
- Flexible composition to adjust to diversity of areas and enable new fields to emerge – not siloed by areas, while still ensuring continuity across sectors and disciplines