**BBSRC Flexible Talent Mobility Account - 2**

BBSRC has awarded the University of Nottingham £120,000 to manage a Flexible Talent Mobility Account (FTMA-2). The funding is part of the National Productivity Investment Fund / Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund1 and is available from 1st November 2018 until 31st March 2021.

FTMA-2 supports the exchange of personnel, perspectives, knowledge, skills and expertise between the academic and industrial sectors, in a way that is in alignment with the Industrial Strategy2. As such particular attention should be paid to how the FTMA2 will address announced ISCF challenges3. Applicants do not need to have previous BBSRC funding**.**

Two types of activity will be supported:

1. **Innovation Placements (IPs)**

Opportunities for UoN Nottingham industrial biotechnology (IB) or synthetic biology PhD students at the end of their studies and who have just submitted their thesis to gain valuable work experience within companies.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Duration | Usually up to 2 months |
| Salary | In line with early career researcher rates (usually UoN SP24, see scales at: <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/hr/guidesandsupport/pay/salaryscales/index.aspx>) |
| Number of Placements | Up to 10 in total |
| Funding allocation | £36k |
| Exploratory visits by ECRs | £4k |
| Notes | For UoN Industrial Biotechnology PhD finishers  Expect host companies to waive bench fees  Flexible working encouraged |

1. **Innovation Fellowships (IFs)**

Opportunities for talented early career researchers (postdoctoral researchers, and those early in their career who are equivalent to BBSRC David Phillips Fellows or equivalent from industry) to undertake short-term secondments and research collaborations.

The IFs have two categories:

**Incoming** The opportunity is open to all ECRs: UK and international, academic and company researchers where the focus is on working collaboratively in University of Nottingham industrial biotechnology (IB) or synthetic biology groups.

**Outgoing** Theopportunity for University of Nottingham IB or synthetic biology researchers to spend time in UK or international, academic or company research environments to develop skills and create or strengthen collaborative links.

At least one, and hopefully more, IFs will be awarded to researchers visiting from overseas as part of the FTMA-2 obligation to the Rutherford Fund4 (£20k is reserved for Rutherford Fund activity).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Duration | Usually up to 3 months |
| Funds | To cover subsistence while on secondment meeting visa requirements |
| Number Placements | Up to 10 in total |
| Funding allocation | £70k |
| Exploratory visits as part of IFs | £10k |
| Notes | For incoming and outgoing ECRs: UK / International / academic / Industry |

1 [www.ukri.org/innovation/industrial-strategy-challenge-fund/](http://www.ukri.org/innovation/industrial-strategy-challenge-fund/)

2 [www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/the-uks-industrial-strategy](http://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/the-uks-industrial-strategy)

3 [www.ukri.org/innovation/industrial-strategy-challenge-fund/](http://www.ukri.org/innovation/industrial-strategy-challenge-fund/)

4 [www.gov.uk/government/news/100-million-rutherford-fund-to-attract-best-researchers-to-the-uk](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/100-million-rutherford-fund-to-attract-best-researchers-to-the-uk)

**The Activities**

1. **Innovation Placements**

Thesewill support the mobility of talented University of Nottingham PhD completers to industry for them to gain valuable new perspectives on the application and development of their research. These placements must align with [Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/industrial-strategy-challenge-fund-joint-research-and-innovation)) in particular the [Bioeconomy Strategy](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/761856/181205_BEIS_Growing_the_Bioeconomy__Web_SP_.pdf). The duration and nature of each secondment will be determined case-by-case but will usually be of one – two months duration carried out either as a block of time or a series of shorter visits. Flexible working is encouraged. The overall aims are to maximise exposure to industrial research environments / technologies and to facilitate new interactions or support established collaborations.

Funding for ‘Exploratory visits’ may be applied for either as part of an Innovation Placement or as a standalone activity. These short visits to a company or companies should pump-prime the development of collaborations, the sharing of knowledge and expertise or provide niche training needs. Costs and duration will be assessed on a case by case basis but an average award is anticipated to be about £500.

All funding for IPs including Exploratory visits will be allocated within the first 18 months of FTMA-2 and spend must be complete by November 2020.

1. **Innovation Fellowships (IFs)**

These are targeted at talented early career researchers (postdoctoral researchers, and those early in their career who are equivalent to BBSRC David Phillips Fellows or equivalent from industry) who have the potential to be the next generation of leaders within UK academic and industrial research. At least one, and hopefully more, fellowships will be awarded to researchers visiting from overseas as part of the FTMA-2 obligation to the Rutherford Fund).

A duration of 3 months total time is recommended, but the structure can be tailored as long as clear justification is provided, e.g. one continual period, two split periods, or one day per week for several months. IFs facilitate UK and international researchers coming from industry or academia to IB and synthetic biology groups within UoN as well as the mobility of UoN synthetic biology and IB researchers outwardly to companies and other academic institutes worldwide. Inward secondments to the University will be designed to align with company needs. Of the funding available 25% (£20k) is ring-fenced as part of the Rutherford Fund, to support non-British citizens to move to, or remain in, the UK.

As part of these awards a separate funding pot of £10k is available to support ECRs on short visits to companies of interest in the UK and abroad to explore training and collaboration opportunities. Costs and duration will be assessed on a case by case basis but an average award is anticipated to be about £1,000.

**Deadlines 31st March and 30th September each year.**

**Review panels will meet May and November.**

Contact [alan.burbidge@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:alan.burbidge@nottingham.ac.uk) if you wish to discuss your ideas for secondments, engagement and/or training.

**Panel members:**

* **Dr Liz Rowsell (Johnson Matthey)**
* **Dr Mark Carver (independent, ex Fujifilm Diosynth)**
* **Prof Nigel Minton (Director, SBRC-Nottingham)**
* **Prof Pete Licence (Director – EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training, Nottingham)**
* **Dr Alan Burbidge (Centre Manager, SBRC-Nottingham)**

**Guidance**

Please also refer to summary tables above.

**Innovation Placements**

* Innovation Placement applications can be submitted by recently graduated (within 2 years) postdoctoral researchers and students who have submitted their PhD thesis;
* Funding is for direct costs only (such as salary of the UoN researcher undertaking the placement, reasonable travel and subsistence costs, consumables or other direct expenses);
* Duration should be tailored to maximise the benefits reaped but is expected to be 1-2 months FTE in duration;
* Activities must involve industrial biotechnology or synthetic biology approaches and also align with one or more of the Bioeconomy Strategy Goals:
  + 1. Capitalise on our world-class research, development and innovation base to grow the bioeconomy;
    2. Maximise productivity and potential from existing UK bioeconomy assets;
    3. Deliver real, measurable benefits for the UK economy;
    4. Create the right societal and market conditions to allow innovative bio-based products and services to thrive.

**Innovation Fellowships**

* Innovation Fellowship applications can be can be submitted:
  1. by Early Career Researchers from other UK or international research organisations or companies (the ECR should first liaise with the UoN host PI to ensure that the proposed work is feasible)
  2. by UoN ECRs wishing to gain experience in another organisation (the ECR should first liaise with the host PI to ensure that the proposed work is feasible)
* Funding is for direct costs only (such as reasonable travel and subsistence costs, consumables or other direct expenses);
* Duration should be tailored to maximise the benefits reaped but is expected to be 2-3 months FTE in duration;
* The placement must have well-defined outcomes related to a research problem and/or development of the early career researcher involved;
* Activities must involve industrial biotechnology or synthetic biology approaches and also align with one or more of the Bioeconomy Strategy Goals:
  + 1. Capitalise on our world-class research, development and innovation base to grow the bioeconomy;
    2. Maximise productivity and potential from existing UK bioeconomy assets;
    3. Deliver real, measurable benefits for the UK economy;
    4. Create the right societal and market conditions to allow innovative bio-based products and services to thrive.

FTMA grants **cannot** be used to support:

* Generic translation activities or infrastructure.
* Patent filing or similar costs associated directly to registering intellectual property rights.
* Non-specific public engagement activities and science communication, however specific activities designed to have specific impact upon a specific public may be acceptable.

**Application Process**

Please complete the application form below.

Applicants for FTMA funding will be asked to present a case for support that includes clear objectives and outputs from the proposed work, as well as identifying further routes for development and leverage of awarded funding.

Applicants must ensure they have approval from their Head of School before submission.

Appropriate agreements may need to be put in place before any funded project begins to identify deliverables, obligations and to define any IP ownership and exploitation.

FTMA grant applications should be emailed to [loretta.waddon@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:loretta.waddon@nottingham.ac.uk) by the deadline.

**Assessment**

Funding will be awarded on a competitive basis. Applications will be considered by a cross-disciplinary panel with membership drawn from the University of Nottingham and industry. Suitable confidentiality agreements will be put in place for external panel members.

Applications will be considered against the following criteria:

* Relevance to FTMA objectives
* Relevance to objectives of the Bioeconomy Strategy Goals
* Potential benefits to industrial partner
* Potential development benefits to the postdoctoral researcher
* Plans for further activity building on the Innovation Placement or Innovation Fellowship

In addition to the application form, please provide:

* [A completed budget and signature form](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/rso/internal/pda/iaa_budget_and_signature_page.docx)
* A letter of support from any collaborative partner (as appropriate)

Please collate all documents into a PDF and submit as one document.

**Award Conditions and Final Report**

Funding will be managed through University of Nottingham’s Research & Innovation teams. Funds must be spent in accordance with the [terms and conditions of the BBSRC](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/site/terms-and-conditions/).

**Reporting**

A full report using the proforma below is to be submitted one month after the completion of the project. Your report should be submitted to [Loretta.waddon@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Loretta.waddon@nottingham.ac.uk) and should give a full picture of the activity, its outputs, outcomes and impacts. This is important as the university will draw on information in the reports for formal reports to be submitted to BBSRC.

**BBSRC Flexible Talent Mobility Account 2018-2021**

Innovation Placement Grant Application Form

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| University of Nottingham Applicant | | | |
| Name |  | School |  |
| Email address |  | Telephone |  |
| Name(s) of any person(s) to be included as staff costs | |  | |
| Date of application | |  | |
| Collaborator | | | |
| Name |  | Research Organisation |  |
| Email address |  | Telephone |  |
| Address |  | | |
| Name(s) of any person(s) to be included as staff costs | |  | |
| Project | | | |
| Title (publicly available) |  | | |
| Start date |  | End date |  |
| **Opportunity (500 words)** *Please include the objectives of the placement and brief summary of the activities to be undertaken, how these relate to the FTMA and Industrial Strategy objectives.* | | | |
| **Outcomes (500 words)** *Please detail anticipated outputs, outcomes and impacts of the placement. Include here information on any plans to secure further funding to build on the planned IF activities. Identify how these will be monitored and measured. What will success look like?* | | | |
| **Costs (500 words)** *Please provide justification of costs noting that only direct costs (staff costs/equipment/ consumables/ travel/other costs) will be supported.* | | | |
| **Other information (200 words excluding references).** *Please include any other information that may be relevant. A maximum of 3 references can be included.* | | | |

**BBSRC Flexible Talent Mobility Account 2018-2021**

Innovation Placement Grant Budget and Signature Form

*This grant application requires the preparation of a RIS costing with Full Economic Costing (fEC). Only* ***direct costs will be supported.*** *Please contact your Research Finance Officer for help with your costing.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Project title** |  | |
| **Proposed start date** |  | |
| **Duration:** |  | |
| **RIS number** |  | |
| **Type** | **Description** | **Costs (direct costs only)** |
| Equipment |  | £ |
| Consumables |  | £ |
| Travel |  | £ |
| Other (please specify) |  | £ |
| **Total** | | **£** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SIGNATURES** | | |
| **PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** I declare that the information given on this form is complete and correct. | | |
| Name (print) | Signature | Date |
| **HEAD OF SCHOOL:** I confirm that I have read and support the application. I agree to the research being carried out in my school and will provide the necessary accommodation and facilities. | | |
| Name (print) | Signature | Date |

**BBSRC Flexible Talent Mobility Account 2018-2021**

Innovation Fellowship Grant Application Form

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| University of Nottingham Applicant | | | |
| Name |  | School |  |
| Email address |  | Telephone |  |
| Name(s) of any person(s) to be included as staff costs | |  | |
| Date of application | |  | |
| Collaborator #1 | | | |
| Name |  | Research Organisation |  |
| Email address |  | Telephone |  |
| Address |  | | |
| Name(s) of any person(s) to be included as staff costs | |  | |
| Project | | | |
| Title (publicly available) |  | | |
| Start date |  | End date |  |
| **Opportunity (500 words)** *Please include the objectives of the placement and brief summary of the activities to be undertaken, how these relate to the FTMA and Industrial Strategy objectives.* | | | |
| **Outcomes (500 words)** *Please detail anticipated outputs, outcomes and impacts of the placement. Include here information on any plans to secure further funding to build on the planned IF activities. Identify how these will be monitored and measured. What will success look like?* | | | |
| **Costs (500 words)** *Please provide justification of costs noting that only direct costs (staff costs/equipment/ consumables/ travel/other costs) will be supported.* | | | |
| **Other information (200 words excluding references).** *Please include any other information that may be relevant. A maximum of 3 references can be included.* | | | |

**BBSRC Flexible Talent Mobility Account 2018-2021**

Innovation Fellowship Grant Budget and Signature Form

*This grant application requires the preparation of a RIS costing with Full Economic Costing (fEC). Only* ***direct costs will be supported.*** *Please contact your Research Finance Officer for help with your costing.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Project title** |  | |
| **Proposed start date** |  | |
| **Duration:** |  | |
| **RIS number** |  | |
| **Type** | **Description** | **Costs (direct costs only)** |
| Equipment |  | £ |
| Consumables |  | £ |
| Travel |  | £ |
| Other (please specify) |  | £ |
| **Total** | | **£** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SIGNATURES** | | |
| **PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** I declare that the information given on this form is complete and correct. | | |
| Name (print) | Signature | Date |
| **HEAD OF SCHOOL:** I confirm that I have read and support the application. I agree to the research being carried out in my school and will provide the necessary accommodation and facilities. | | |
| Name (print) | Signature | Date |

**BBSRC Flexible Talent Mobility**

Innovation Placement / Innovation Fellowship Grant Final Report Form

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Project title |  | |
| University Lead Applicant |  | |
| Project dates |  | |
| Innovation Placement\*  (\*delete as appropriate) | | Innovation Fellowship\*  (\*delete as appropriate) |
| **Summary.** What was done? How was the FTMA grant money spent? | | |
| **Outputs, Outcomes and Impact.** What was achieved? With reference to Bioeconomy Strategy Goals, how has this helped you/the company/other stakeholders? | | |
| **Future.** What happens next? Is there any support you need to take the next step? | | |