

FAQs for Collaborative Research Grants

Industrial Partnership Awards and 'stand-alone' LINK grants

These FAQs are to assist on the common questions usually asked by the community when applying for Industrial Partnership Awards (IPAs) or 'stand-alone' LINK grants. If you have any queries not covered by these FAQs or you require further information please contact Magdalena Basiewicz by email (industry.collaboration@bbsrc.ac.uk) or phone (tel. 01793 413289).

Both schemes (IPA and LINK)

Application threshold

The application threshold for the IPA and LINK schemes will apply to the 100% FEC amount requested from BBSRC (i.e. net of any industrial contribution).

When can I apply for an IPA or LINK grant?

Both schemes operate within the Responsive Mode (RM) framework, so the same deadlines apply, as published at <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/deadlines.aspx>.

Can I have industrial partners who are based overseas?

The primary aim of the IPA and 'stand-alone' LINK schemes is to benefit to the UK research base and UK economy. Therefore, the collaborating companies should have an R&D or manufacturing site in the UK. However, where a suitable company cannot be found in the UK, an overseas company may be used. Such collaborations are judged on a case by case basis and clear justification must be provided. You should contact BBSRC before applying to discuss any international collaborative partners (industry.collaboration@bbsrc.ac.uk, tel. 01793 413289)

What attachments do I need to provide when I apply?

IPAs and LINK applications require two additional attachments:

1. letter from their university's Technology Transfer office outlining the management of outputs from the proposed research including:
 - a. Objectives of the collaboration
 - b. Key tasks, contributions and responsibilities of the different partners
 - c. Agreed routes for dissemination of emerging results and management of intellectual assets and/or intellectual property
 - d. Any direct or indirect interest from the academic partner in the commercialization of the project
 - e. And confirming that if the application is successful, a collaboration agreement will be put in place between all partners before research commences in line with Cross-Research Council Research Grant Terms and Conditions
2. A letter of support from each industry partner signed off by the budget holder (or equivalent) which outlines their involvement of the project including:
 - a. the companies interest in the proposed project and collaboration
 - b. the companies contribution to the collaboration including justification of the value of in'kind contributions where included.

- c. agreed routes for dissemination of emerging results and management of intellectual assets and/or intellectual property
- d. and confirming that if the application is successful, a collaboration agreement will be put in place between all partners before research commences in line with Cross-Research Council Research Grant Terms and Conditions

How will the letters of support be used?

The letters will be reviewed by BBSRC internally and by the committee assessing the proposal.

The committee will review information around the value of the collaboration in achieving the aims of the proposed project as part of their overall assessment of the project.

BBSRC will consider the appropriateness of the contributions, responsibilities of collaborators against the requirements for IPA and LINK and the agreed routes for dissemination of emerging results and management of intellectual assets and/or intellectual property. Where necessary, changes may be requested.

What goes in the collaboration agreement?

BBSRC expects the collaboration agreement to address the points outlined in the technology transfer office letter. However, many guides and model agreements exist to facilitate these sometimes difficult negotiations. BBSRC encourage the use of the Lambert tool kit for collaborative research (<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/lambert>). The collaboration agreement must be submitted to BBSRC within 3 months of the proposed start time of the project.

How do I flag my application as IPA/LINK in Je-S?

The grant type can be selected via a classification option in Je-S.

- Select Council: 'BBSRC'
- Select Document Type: 'Standard Proposal'
- Select Scheme: 'Responsive Mode'
- Select Call/Type Mode: 'Responsive Mode DEADLINE'
- In the Document Menu select 'Classifications' and then 'Grant Type'
- Select the appropriate classification (Industrial Partnership Award, LINK, etc.)

You will then need to add the project partners on Je-S using the 'project partner' selection, including the value and type of the contribution.

If you have any further difficulties using Je-S, please contact the Je-S Helpdesk on 01793 444164 or JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk (staffed Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm UK time, excluding bank holidays and other holidays).

Can I have more than one project partner?

You can have as many project partners as you want but they will need to be entered in the Je-S form as separate project partners, and will each need to provide a letter of support. The total contribution of all project partners must meet the 10% (IPA) or 50% (LINK) criteria.

Where should I include company partners in the application?

Company partners in the proposal should be included within the Project Partners section along with the contribution they are provided.

Full project cost – definition

Calculation of the percentage industry contribution differs between LINK and IPA, please read the specific FAQs for the individual mechanisms below to ensure you calculate costs correctly.

‘Stand-alone’ LINK grants

What contributions do I need from industry for a LINK project?

In order for an application to be eligible under the LINK scheme, at least 50% of the full project cost must come from industry. This can be either cash or in-kind. The applicants can request the balance of the project cost from BBSRC. The balance being sought from BBSRC should be used when completing the Je-S form. If successful, 80% of the value requested on the form will be awarded by BBSRC.

Example figures:

LINK Scheme	Total cost of the whole project (academia and industry)	Minimum industry contribution (cash and / or in-kind) – to be entered in ‘project partner(s)’ box on the JeS form	Maximum amount requested from BBSRC - This is the amount used on the JeS form in the fEC	If successful, amount awarded by BBSRC (80% of that requested)	If successful, amount expected from institutional core funds (20% of that requested)
Example figures	£1,000,000	£500,000	£500,000	£400,000	£100,000

How are LINK applications assessed?

LINK applications are assessed within the Responsive Mode (RM) framework using the standard assessment criteria. However, referees and committee members acknowledge that LINK applications are often more applied than standard RM grants. LINK applications are ranked with all RM applications. LINK projects are expected to receive a significant uplift after the ranking, but pressures on BBSRC funding mean that BBSRC cannot guarantee the extent nor effect of this uplift.

Applications must be within BBSRC remit and must be submitted by BBSRC-eligible academics. See the Grants Guide for full details.

BBSRC has strict criteria regarding the necessary financial contributions (see above).

What are acceptable in-kind contributions?

Eligible in-kind contributions include:

- The salaries of the personnel working directly on the project;
- Materials consumed in the course of the project;
- Capital equipment purchased or constructed for the project, less its estimated value to the business at the end of the project;
- Sub-contract charges and consultancy fees and cost of equivalent services used exclusively for the research activity, bought from outside sources project management costs such as travel, office space etc. that are addition to those normally involved;
- An allowance for reasonable overheads;
- Reasonable costs associated with any losses incurred by the industry partner.

Please note that access to data should be provided free of charge.

If you have other in-kind contributions in mind but are not clear whether they meet BBSRCs guidelines, the office will be happy to discuss them with you. It is expected that industrial partner justifies the value attributed to the in-kind contributions in their letter of support and/or that these are discussed in the Justification of Resources document.

Industrial Partnership Awards (IPAs)

How are IPA applications assessed?

IPA applications are assessed within the Responsive Mode (RM) framework using the standard assessment criteria. However, referees and committee members acknowledge that IPA applications are often more applied than standard responsive mode grants. IPA applications are ranked with all RM applications. After the ranking, IPA applications receive a modest uplift. However, grants must still be internationally competitive to receive funding.

What contributions do I need from industry for an IPA project?

In order for an application to be eligible under the IPA scheme, industry partners must make a cash contribution that is at least equivalent to 10% of the balance of the project costs minus the industry contribution. Example figures:

a) Total cost of the whole project	b) Industry contribution (cash) –	c) Outstanding balance of research council eligible costs (a-b) - This is the amount used on the JeS form in the fEC	IPA – Yes or No	If successful, amount awarded by BBSRC (80% of that requested)	If successful, amount expected from institutional core funds (20% of that requested)
£550,000	£50,000	£500,000	Yes – Cash contribution is 10% of the balance	£400,000	£100,000
£550,000	£40,000	£510,000	No – Cash contribution is less than 10% of the balance	£408,000	£102,000
£550,000	£70,000	£480,000	Yes – Cash contribution is greater than 10% of balance	384,000	£96,000