

BBSRC Training Grants FAQs

These FAQs are aimed at those who are new to Research Council funding processes, to help them understand more about Research Council Training Grants, and BBSRC's expectations regarding their use.

1 General

1.1 What is a Training Grant?

A Training Grant (TG) is a grant awarded for the purpose of supporting postgraduate training. TGs are awarded by BBSRC through the following competitions:

- Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) Competition
- Industrial CASE Partnership (ICP) Competition

TGs are covered by a cross-Council set of Terms and Conditions and these are available on the RCUK website: <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/grantstcs/>

1.2 What are the advantages to a Department and Research Organisation?

The principal benefit to a Department, Research Organisation (RO), or Partnership (in the case of DTPs) is the flexibility which a TG provides in how postgraduate training is provided. BBSRC awards its TGs on the basis of the value of a number of 4-year PhD studentships, and subject to the terms and conditions of the scheme. The ROs (including departments or partnerships) have the flexibility, for example:

- to offer 4 year studentships or flexible studentships geared to the project and needs of the student;
- start students at any point in the academic year;
- draw in funding from other sources by part-funding the student from the TG and part from another source (see below).

The intention is for ROs to hold, or be a partner on, separate, but overlapping, TGs, and to be able to draw on the funding flexibly, although the RO will be expected to account for funds drawn from each TG.

1.3 How are Training Grant funds allocated?

All TG funding is allocated through the BBSRC's studentship competitions. BBSRC does not use an algorithm based allocation process BBSRC takes this approach in order to ensure that it is investing in excellent research training environments for students.

2 Grant Arrangements

2.1 What will be the grant start date?

The date is 1 October of the first academic year covered by the TG.

2.2 What is the duration of the grant?

This will be specified in the award letter. The TG awarded through the DTP competition provides for multiple years of intakes on 4-year studentships, and so the total length of the grant is multiple years. Note that this covers multiple financial years in terms of the Research Councils (April – March financial year). Where a TG covers only a single PhD intake, the duration of the grant will accordingly be shorter.

2.3 What happens if the student's period of support goes beyond the end of the grant?

The balance of the funding should be made from a subsequent TG, or from another source. A TG is cash-limited and will not be supplemented or extended for this reason.

However BBSRC recognises that such flexibility does not always exist when say only one studentship is funded through an award. Where this is the case BBSRC is prepared to consider a "no cost" extension, but these will be considered on a case by case basis.

BBSRC expect students to complete their training in a single continuous period and do not encourage suspension of awards. Where suspensions are agreed, total periods of suspension must not normally exceed one calendar year during the lifetime of the award. Sympathetic consideration should be given to requests for abeyance due to personal or family reasons.

2.4 What is the value of a Training Grant?

(This section applies to all TGs from 1 October 2017)

Funds awarded are for the training of students where the training leads to the award of a recognised postgraduate qualification. Funding may be used for student stipends, fees, project costs and the incidental costs of research training, such as travel and conference attendance, internships and to support small, local, cohort-specific conferences.

A TG comprises the following elements per annum:

- i. A maintenance stipend -
for students attending an institution outside London **£14,553**

for students attending an institution in London	£16,553
for students with a recognised veterinary degree qualification (also see question 2.6)	£22,456
ii. Fees	£4,195
iii. Research Training Support Grant (RTSG)	£5,000
iv. Conference and UK fieldwork expenses	£240

The stipend and fees levels normally increase annually in line with the GDP deflator as advised by RCUK on its website (<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/skills/training/>)

For DTPs, funds to cover the standard cost of all these payments (except disabled students' allowance) are paid into the academic institution's Training Account and are administered by the institution.

The RO can move funds between the different fund headings on the grant except for those funds which are specific to an individual student e.g. Disabled Students Allowance, or as specified by individual Research Councils.

2.5 Can we fund a student who wants to start in September or earlier?

In relation to the start date for a TG, a student can be started earlier in the year, but BBSRC will not start the grant earlier. Funds will not be released early.

2.6 What happens if we take on a veterinary student who qualifies for the higher stipend - we will be short of funds?

As a BBSRC requirement any veterinary graduate funded through a BBSRC TG is entitled to the higher rate stipend applicable at the time. Normally BBSRC would expect these costs to be met from within the overall cash limit of the TG. This is particularly so with the flexibility afforded within the larger grants. However BBSRC recognises that such flexibility does not always exist when say only one or two studentships are fundable through an award. Where this is the case BBSRC is prepared to consider extra funding that cannot be met from the awarded funds. In order to request extra funding the RO must demonstrate that it lacks the flexibility within its TG to meet these costs and that it has no other contingency funding or concurrent TGs on which it could draw.

A form for claiming funds as a result of extra costs associated with paying a higher stipend to a veterinary graduate needs to be attached to the final expenditure statement which can be found at <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/studentships/studentships-index.aspx>

2.7 What provision is made for additional costs incurred as a result of maternity leave?

As detailed in the [RCUK Terms and Conditions of Research Training Grants](#), students receiving a stipend from a Research Council TG are entitled to receive stipend support during periods of maternity leave and to have their studentship extended by a commensurate period.

The additional costs incurred should normally be met from within the cash-limit of the Training Account (comprising all BBSRC TGs). For the majority of ROs, which have significant concurrent TGs and the expectation of regular funding in the future, this should cause no difficulties and Councils would not expect or accept any additional claims. For those ROs without such flexibility (e.g. a very small TG and no expectation of future funding), then Councils will consider requests for additional funding above the cash-limit when this can be shown to be unavoidable. In order to request extra funding the RO will need to demonstrate that it lacks flexibility within its TG to meet the costs of maternity support and that it has no or other contingency funding or concurrent TGs on which it could draw.

As detailed in the RCUK Terms and Conditions of TGs, the RO must make suitable arrangements for coping with absences of students for illness, maternity leave, Ordinary Paternity Leave, shared parental Leave, adoption leave, extended jury service and holidays.

Payment of a studentship can continue for absences covered by a medical certificate for up to thirteen weeks within any 12-month period. If the illness lasts, or is expected to last, for more than thirteen weeks, the RO should make arrangements to suspend the studentship.

The RO must ensure that it is aware of unauthorised absences by students, so that future payments may be stopped and those already made in advance of need can be recovered. Students may opt to study part-time (at least 50%) following a change in their personal circumstances.

Where there are insufficient funds in the Training Account to meet a period of genuine absence, the Research Council will consider compensation at the end of the TG to cover the additional costs arising providing the RO can demonstrate that it lacks the flexibility to meet the costs and that it has no other contingency funding or concurrent TGs on which it could draw.

2.8 Can a Research Organisation claim additional costs due to a shortage of funds within the Grant if a student has been on an agreed Policy Internship?

No, the BBSRC would expect these costs to be met from within the overall cash limit of the TG. This is particularly so with the flexibility afforded within the larger grants.

3 Use of the funding

3.1 Can I use the funding in any way I choose?

No. As with any Research Council grant, the funding is awarded subject to terms and conditions governing the use of the funding. The terms and conditions governing TGs have been agreed cross-Council. These terms and conditions specify the formal 'minimum' conditions for the correct use of the funding, and indicate the formal limits to the flexibility which the TG offers to a RO.

You also need to bear in mind the purpose of the award as determined by the competition in which it was awarded. For example, the DTP TGs give ROs autonomy in determining the areas of the individual student projects within BBSRC remit, however these still need to be in accordance with their Portfolio Agreement.

In addition, however, BBSRC expects ROs to use the flexibility of TG funding for maximum *strategic* effect, and to think strategically about how *best* to maximise the impact of BBSRC's investment in the RO. This might include using the flexibility of part-funding to gear in funding from other sources, or offering enhanced stipends to attract the strongest candidates in areas of science in which a RO may have been experiencing recruitment difficulties. Several of the following FAQs provide information regarding BBSRC's views as to good practice in this area.

3.2 Do I have to create only 3-year or 4-year studentships? Can I create a shorter studentship geared to the project and needs of the student?

No to the first; yes, to the second. When BBSRC first introduced its 4-year PhD funding as standard it encouraged ROs to create 4-year studentships, and only use shorter studentships in specific circumstances (e.g. where the student had significant prior experience). Following a recommendation from the Evaluation of BBSRC's Quota DTG scheme, we are happy for ROs to exercise more flexibility here.

However, we still envisage that a significant proportion of studentships need to be 4 year in view of the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of bioscience research, and the need to provide students with challenging projects. ROs should seek to ensure that students finish their research within the time period agreed for the project.

3.3 Why do we need to decide upfront about the duration of a studentship?

It is important that students are given a clear statement at the beginning of their studentship of the length of funding they can expect. A ROs offer to a candidate should contain a clear statement of the details of the studentship support being offered. (You should also refer to Precept 9 of the [QAA's Code of Practice on Postgraduate](#)

[Research Programmes](#) regarding the offer letter, and its role in constituting a contract between the student and the RO.)

Any such statement should make clear, for example, that continued receipt of the studentship is subject to satisfactory progress, as monitored through a ROs progress monitoring procedures. With 4-year studentships, some ROs state clear progression requirements toward submission in the final year for continued receipt of funding. If a student completes in less than 4 years, then the RO retains the funding in its TG, of course for use with other BBSRC student support.

3.4 If we offer a 3-year studentship, can we extend the funding period later on?

Normally a student should be supervised, and their progress monitored, towards submission within 3 years where a 3-year studentship has been offered. The drift towards the majority of students requiring a fourth year has led to an unfortunate practice of the 'writing-up year', where, in the worst cases, a student is left with no stipend in order to complete their project. The introduction of 4-year studentships is intended to end this practice; and so 3-year studentships should mean a research project which is managed to completion (i.e. submission of the thesis) in 3 years.

If a 3-year studentship is offered, this does not prevent a RO having clear procedures for exceptionally extending a studentship later on, on a competitive basis, if the science is showing signs of dramatic new results. If this process is used, then for fairness we would expect to see *all* 3-year studentships in a RO eligible for extension, irrespective of funder (though BBSRC TG funding could only be used where the studentship is BBSRC funded).

The completion of a project within a specified time-frame is itself, of course, an essential transferable skill (see Domain B of the [Researcher Development Statement](#)). ROs should seek to ensure that students normally finish their research within the time period agreed for the projects, and we do not expect to see ROs extending the period of a studentship late in the day, unless exceptionally it can demonstrate that it is seeking to reward excellence and support exciting new research developments in a student's project, as above.

3.5 If I have Training Grant funding for an annual intake of three 4-year studentships, can I use the funding to create four 3-year studentships?

While BBSRC does not wish to be overly prescriptive in the use of TG funding, the intention in providing four years of funding per studentship package is not to allow for the creation of a larger number of 3-year studentships. There is now a common perception that 3-year studentships are not adequate to allow students to undertake challenging projects in view of the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of bioscience research.

3.6 Can I part-fund a student, i.e. part from the Training Grant and part from another source?

Yes – but there are limits to the part-funding arrangements; see the next question for details.

3.7 Is there a minimum limit to the contribution which must be made from the Training Grant, when a student is being part-funded from a non-Research Council source?

Yes. The TG allows for studentships to be part-funded from the TG, and part-from another source, but in all cases of part-funding *at least 50%* of the total cost (where a stipend is awarded) over the lifetime of the studentship should be funded from the TG. Where a student being funded is eligible only for a fees-only award, *100% of the fees* should be met from the TG over the lifetime of the studentship. It is not permissible, therefore, to provide small sums of funding from the TG to support, for example, a student funded primarily from another source. In other words, every student who is funded from the TG must be funded according to these minimum levels, and they will count on this basis as ‘recognised’ BBSRC students. Being a recognised BBSRC student is important for the student – for example, it makes them eligible for funding to attend the biotechnology YES competition.

3.8 Can I part-fund a studentship from the Training Grant of another Research Council?

Yes – 50:50 funding from the TGs of different Research Councils is permitted, and the cross-council Terms and Conditions provide further details of this. The TG mechanism is particularly useful to facilitate studentships in interdisciplinary / cross-council areas. However, where a studentship is part-funded from the TG of another Research Council, the Department or RO holding the BBSRC TG must satisfy itself that sufficient research within the project is within BBSRC remit in order to justify the collaborative arrangement.

3.9 Can I part-fund a studentship from two different Training Grants, e.g. from a Doctoral Training Partnership Training Grant and an Industrial CASE Partnership Training Grant?

Yes, provided the use of the funding in each case is appropriate to the purposes for which the grant was awarded – i.e. it must fit under both awards. The RO will also need to ensure, however, that it has suitable mechanisms in place to accurately record the funding drawn from each TG.

3.10 Are there any restrictions on the areas of science in which studentships can be supported?

All studentships funded from BBSRC TGs must be in BBSRCs scientific remit; or, in the case of jointly funded studentships with another Council, a substantial part of the research training must be in BBSRCs remit. The areas of science permissible will depend on the competition in which the TG was awarded e.g. The DTP competition makes awards to support studentships in the strategic research areas outlined in the Portfolio Agreements.

3.11 Is there a restriction on whether a student can take on a 4-year studentship if they have already completed more than three years of degree or postgraduate level training?

No. BBSRC wishes ROs to recruit the best eligible students to its studentships, having consideration of the student's expertise and qualifications and their suitability for the particular project.

3.12 Can I use funding from the Training Grant to fund a "writing-up" period?

No. If a studentship project is designed to be three years, this should be managed so as to allow for the writing up of the research within the scope of the project, similarly for a 4-year studentship. In other words, a RO should not fund a student for 3 / 4 years of laboratory work and then expect the student to have to write up in their own time. The project should be designed and managed to allow for the writing up of the research within the scope of the project itself.

3.13 Can we continue to fund a student from our Training Grant after they have submitted their thesis?

Yes – but only in certain circumstances. Normally the submission of the thesis is taken to mark the end of PhD studies. In some cases, students may submit their thesis prior to the end of their award. Where the student continues to undertake work that is directly linked to their thesis, it is permissible for the doctoral award to continue to the end of the quarter in which the thesis is submitted. If the student submits on or after the original end date then the funding must cease on the end date.

3.14 Can I use funding from a Doctoral Training Grant to fund Masters Level training?

A TG should only be used to support Masters Level training where this is an integral part of a doctoral research degree programme. A TG gives the RO flexibility to tailor a training package to a particular student, and if, as part of that training, the RO wishes the student to take a course of Masters Level modules, then that is allowable. However, a clear offer of a four-year doctoral programme should be made to the student.

It may be particularly appropriate, for example, to include Masters Level taught modules as

part of the first year of a doctoral research degree programme in interdisciplinary areas. Some degree programmes, such as the 'Integrated PhD' or 'New Route PhD' may also involve taught components at Masters Level. TG funding which has been awarded through PhD studentship competitions should not be used, however, to provide stand-alone Masters Studentships. ROs should also bear in mind that a four year submission period is expected for all students, irrespective of whether their programmes involve components at Masters Level.

If the student is not continuing to study, then the award must be terminated from the date the student's registration ceases and any funding overpaid to the student must be reclaimed.

3.15 Can I use Training Grant funding to provide student stipends above the research council minimum?

Yes – the TG approach gives the RO flexibility to provide enhanced stipends within the financial scope of the grant, in order to support its recruitment of the best students.

3.16 Can I use the Training Grant to fund higher research support costs than under a standard research council studentship, and fund fewer studentships?

Yes, it is for ROs to decide the distribution of funds, taking into account the needs of the students and projects funded through the TG, and the broader management of its postgraduate training. Funds may also be used towards the cost of travel associated with conference attendance and fieldwork both within the UK and abroad. The distribution of the funds should be tensioned against these various calls on it.

3.17 What happens when a student moves to another department or Research Organisation?

BBSRC expects the department or RO to come to an agreement about transferring resources (the TG to a department or RO will not be amended). Essentially, the 'exporting' department or RO should make an appropriate financial transfer to the new department or RO to cover the balance of cost of the studentship award. BBSRC expects for both ROs to place paramount importance on the interests of the student in reaching decisions about the transfer of resources.

3.18 How can Research Organisations use the funds allocated for Professional Internships for PhD Students (PIPS):

All BBSRC PhD students funded by a DTP TG must carry out a non-academic work experience placement during their PhD. A contribution per studentship has been added to the *Total Fieldwork* heading of each DTP TG to contribute to the costs of the PIPS programme. It is acceptable to use these funds to cover the direct costs of PIPS, such as

any additional travel and accommodation costs incurred by the student while on placement. Costs can be charged to the RTSG component of the TG if the need arises.

4 Selection of Students

4.1 What eligibility requirements apply to students funded through Training Grants?

BBSRC does not fund students directly, but funds ROs through TG. TGs include funding for fees and stipends (maintenance payments for students).

The Research Councils place full reliance on residential eligibility checks undertaken by the RO. When submitting student details to the Studentship Details, ROs are confirming that they have checked the eligibility of the student to receive the level of funding allocated to them.

Please note that the status of the award (e.g. full or fees-only) is determined at the start of the award and cannot be changed once an award is made.

A guide to student eligibility is available at: www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/documents/TermsConditionsTrainingGrants-pdf/

4.2 What residency requirements apply to students funded through Training Grants?

To be eligible for a full award (stipend and fees): A student must have:

- Settled status in the UK, meaning they have no restrictions on how long they can stay

And

- Been 'ordinarily resident' in the UK for 3 years prior to the start of the grant. This means they must have been normally residing in the UK (apart from temporary or occasional absences)

And

- Not been residing in the UK wholly or mainly for the purpose of full-time education. (This does not apply to UK or EU nationals).

To be eligible for a fees only award:

- Students from EU countries other than the UK are generally eligible for a fees-only award. To be eligible for a fees-only award, a student must be ordinarily resident in a

member state of the EU; in the same way as UK students must be ordinarily resident in the UK.

Note: These eligibility criteria are based on the Education (Fees and Awards) Regulations 1997 and subsequent amendments.

4.3 How will the students know that they are funded by the BBSRC?

Since students are no longer directly paid by BBSRC, there is a risk that they may not realise that they are BBSRC-funded students. It is important, therefore, that the RO make this clear to the students funded from the TG and one way to do this would be to use the BBSRC logo on relevant award letters or documentation. The BBSRC logo can be downloaded from: www.bbsrc.ac.uk/site/download-logo.aspx

For studentships funded via a DTP TG it is anticipated that students will be actively involved in DTP co-hort building activities at the RO, Partnership and Programme level. It is important; therefore, that the ROs make this clear to the students funded from the DTP TG, and one way to do this would be to use the BBSRC DTP logo on relevant award letters or documentation. The BBSRC DTP logo can be downloaded from: http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/bbsrc/cache/file/D4930C34-1117-4DC8-882B7195E735EA78_source.jpg

5 Management of Awards

5.1 What Terms and Conditions apply to students funded through Training Grants?

The terms and conditions governing TGs have been agreed cross-Council. These terms and conditions specify the formal 'minimum' conditions for the correct use of the funding, and indicate the formal limits to the flexibility which the TG offers to a RO. A copy of the Terms and Conditions of Research Council TGs is available on the RCUK website at: <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/grantstcs/>

In addition, the BBSRC DTP and ICP TGs have specific terms and conditions relating to reporting and strategic engagement that are contained within the offer of award.

5.2 Can I convert a studentship to CASE?

Yes. BBSRC wishes to encourage collaboration with potential industrial or commercial partners, but this need not require formal "conversion" of a studentship to CASE. ROs should feel free to seek collaboration on TG funded projects with a wide range of partners.

CASE awards are a type of doctoral studentship designed around a collaborative research project and giving the student broader experience within a non-academic setting. The

BBSRC vision for CASE is that “CASE awards will provide PhD students with a first-rate, challenging research training experience, within the context of a mutually beneficial research collaboration between academic and partner organisations”. The research project undertaken by the student should be agreed between the academic partner and the cooperating body, and the student supervised by staff from both organisations.

Details of any mandatory requirement for industry to make financial contributions to the student stipend and research project will be detailed in the call documentation for the scheme on the BBSRC website and in the offer of award.

On top of the DTP studentship allocation, each DTP has been allocated a ring-fenced number of CASE studentships, and so there is no mandatory requirement to create further CASE studentships from the DTP TG. However, DTPs retain the flexibility to convert their DTP studentships to CASE studentships where appropriate, and in this event, the mandatory PIPS requirements for these CASE-converted DTP studentships is removed.

To be counted as a CASE award, the studentship should meet the terms and conditions for such awards as given in the BBSRC’s studentship guide, *BBSRC Postgraduate Studentships*. Please note, **it is a mandatory requirement that the student completes a placement of three months minimum** (and no longer than 18 months) in the partner organisation.

5.3 Can part-time students be supported?

We expect all award holders to offer the option of studying part-time. Studentships should be advertised as available on either a full-time or part-time basis.

ROs and students should be realistic, however, about such arrangements. It is expected that the period of study will reflect the percentage of time spent pursuing doctoral studies, and a minimum of half-time study may be appropriate (requiring an expected period of study of up to six – eight years). Supervisors will wish to ensure that the project will be able to keep up with the new research developments that are likely to occur over such an extended period of study.

5.4 Can we replace students who leave early?

Yes, if you have sufficient funds in the TG, or if necessary you can guarantee any funding required beyond the period of the current TG from another source (i.e. if the period of new studentship extends beyond the end of the TG). Students who leave within the first year will not be counted against the ROs four year submission rates, but no replacement funding will be provided. If a student leaves after 12 months, BBSRC will include that student in post-award surveys on thesis submissions.

Any changes to the student details must be updated in the Studentship Details via Je-S.

BBSRC would expect the replacement student to be offered the same opportunities for research, training and development (i.e. SysMIC and PIPS, where appropriate) as the original student. It is therefore expected that a reasonable studentship duration, geared to the project and the needs of the replacement student, is given for completion of the PhD.

It may be agreed that the original student can continue towards a Masters qualification and this will be confirmed as the exit point for that student. In this case, it is permissible for the student's funding to continue up to the date the dissertation is submitted. The RO must make every effort to ensure the decision to proceed to a Masters instead of a doctorate is taken as soon as possible. Once agreed, there must be a clearly communicated and timely deadline for completion of the Masters.

5.5 How does the Research Organisation make amendments to the Training Grant?

The RO must send a request via the Grant Maintenance facility in Je-S if changes to the TG are to be considered by BBSRC

6 Financial Arrangements

6.1 What are the national minimum stipend rates?

The minimum stipend for Research Council students is published annually on the RCUK website: <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/skills/training/>

Students eligible for a stipend must be in receipt of at least the Research Council minimum for the academic year in question, including where appropriate the current London supplement.

6.2 Are increases to the stipend levels included in the grant?

Normally, yes.

6.3 Can funds not committed in the first year be carried forward to a later year?

Yes. They can be used at any time during the grant. Any unspent funds remaining at the end of the TG will not be paid when the Final Expenditure Statement is reconciled. They cannot be transferred.

7 Monitoring and Information

7.1 What information will the BBSRC be seeking on students funded from a Training Grant?

The cross-council Terms and Conditions of a TG confirm the requirements for student and project information. It is very important for BBSRC to have information on the students (and their research) which are being supported with BBSRC funding. All Research Councils have moved to use Je-S based electronic systems for the return of student information. BBSRC requires the return of information on the students funded from a TG through the Je-S Studentship Details. An outline of the information that will be required includes:

- student and project details as provided on the standard nomination form
- duration of studentships awarded
- start date of awards
- stipends awarded
- details of CASE partners and levels of contributions
- breakdown of funds within the account into
- stipends
- fees
- research training support grants

In addition to the cross-council requirements the DTPs and ICPs have specific requirements for monitoring and strategic engagement, outlined within the offers of award e.g. providing details of placements associated with each studentship.

7.2 When does BBSRC require student information from Research Organisations?

Details of the students funded from a TG should be returned to BBSRC through the Je-S Studentship Details within *one month* of the student starting. Annual surveys of PhD submission and completion rates (carried out in Autumn) will continue. BBSRC receives first-destination data on the employment of students once they have been awarded their degrees from the HESA survey of Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE).

BBSRC would ask that ROs make students aware of the importance of completing the HESA questionnaire which they will receive in due course. This information is vital for BBSRC to be able to report on the impact of its funding.

In addition, moving forward, from 2016 it is envisaged that there will be a requirement for studentship outputs and impacts to be captured in [ResearchFish](#) across all BBSRC TG schemes. Further information on this will be provided to ROs and TG holders in due course.

7.3 Is there further information available to assist ROs and TG holders in learning more about intellectual property, knowledge exchange, commercialisation, and

related metrics and reports?

Yes. BBSRC encourages researchers at any stage of their career to explore the potential of their research, acquire business skills to develop it, and take it towards impact. Further information can be found in the KEC resources of the BBSRC website at <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/innovation/collaboration/innovation-resources/>

7.4 What submission period is required for BBSRC PhD studentships?

The four year submission period applies to all PhD students – including those funded for 4 years. Students who submit after this period will count against the ROs four year submission rate. Submission rates will continue to be a key indicator of quality of training environment in BBSRC's studentship competitions.

7.5 How will BBSRC monitor the use of Training Grant funding?

The RO is accountable to the BBSRC for the use of all funds in a TG and should keep auditable records to ensure that this can be done. The Research Councils' Funding Assurance Programme (FAP) audit process will seek to ensure that ROs have proper processes in place for management of their TG funding.