



BBSRC EXCELLENCE WITH IMPACT COMPETITION

CALL TEXT

BACKGROUND

BBSRC's 'Fostering Innovation' competitions ([Innovator of the Year](#), [Activating Impact](#) and [Excellence with Impact](#)) recognise the commitment of BBSRC-supported scientists, knowledge exchange professionals and outstanding Research Organisations (ROs) in ensuring that economic and/or social impact is captured from their research.

INTRODUCTION

BBSRC's Excellence with Impact (EwI) competition aims to recognise ROs¹ and all BBSRC strategically funded institutes² that can demonstrate implementation of ambitious visions to best deliver impact as shown by an institution-wide culture change to maximise impact during the period of the competition.

This competition aims to:

- encourage ROs to develop a Vision that supports a wide range of impacts arising from their research;
- encourage ROs to drive forward a strategy that maximises impacts that could arise from their research;
- support ROs in embedding their agenda to deliver impact from their research;
- stimulate and enhance relationships between BBSRC and participating ROs;
- showcase to users of BBSRC research and other strategic partners those ROs that are actively encouraging impact arising from their excellent research;
- recognise and reward efforts by all members of a RO to maximise the social and economic impact of BBSRC-funded bioscience research.

Whilst BBSRC recognises and welcomes ROs' impacts that arise from excellent research across several disciplines and from a diverse bioscience base, organisations are encouraged to focus a significant part of their Vision and subsequent submissions on impacts connected to/underpinned by BBSRC-funded research.

THE COMPETITION

¹ whose total value of BBSRC grants live on 1st April 2012 exceeded £5M

² henceforth referred to as ROs

BBSRC's Ewl competition encourages participating ROs to actively embed a culture that recognises the importance of economic and social impact arising from excellent research. The focus of the current competition is the development by ROs of a range of actions aimed to deliver/maximise impact arising from excellent bioscience research (including those relevant to Pathways to Impact on funded BBSRC grants). The competition will run between 2013 and 2016 with BBSRC providing support to ROs through site visits, advice on strategies to maximise impact, workshops and direct engagement during the competition.

THE VISION

As a first step, ROs will be invited to develop a Vision and a strategy that supports pathways to the wide range of impacts that can arise from their research. It is expected that the RO's Vision will address significant areas of research supported by BBSRC-funding. Subsequently, the RO will have to demonstrate how it has seized, and indeed created, opportunities to maximise impact and provide evidence of its achievements. At the end of the competition, progress against delivery of this Vision will be reviewed in order to help determine the winners.

THE AWARD

There will be an award of £0.5M for the RO that best demonstrates the delivery of impact in its widest sense over the period of the competition. There will be a further £0.5M available to be awarded at judges' discretion to highly commended runners up. The awards will be presented at a prestigious event in spring 2016, with national publicity for the winning departments. Each award is to be spent, at the RO's discretion, to support research, training or other activities promoting economic or social impact, providing it falls within BBSRC's sphere of interest.

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to ROs whose total value of BBSRC grants live on 1 April 2012 exceeded £5M and all BBSRC strategically funded institutes. Each eligible institution e.g. RO or BBSRC strategically funded institute can submit only one entry. Entries for the Competition must be submitted on behalf of the RO by the head of department/school/faculty or equivalent, and include contact details of other partner departments. The term 'department' is used in this context as embracing 'schools', 'centres' or other organisational groupings within the RO and is not intended to be restrictive. Wider groupings that promote cross-disciplinary working on/underpinned by BBSRC-funded research within the same RO are encouraged to participate. However, entries involving consortia of ROs or of departments from different ROs are not eligible for this competition. Commercial organisations are not eligible to take part in this competition.

APPLICATION DETAILS

There is a two-part application process, initially ROs are invited to submit an entry using the **Expression of Interest** form [EI] by **31 January 2013**, with details of partner departments and a brief outline Vision that delineates the impact from their research and training activities. Each applicant RO will submit a 'vision for excellence with impact' document, outlining their plans for demonstrating wide impact arising from their research and training activities, primarily funded by BBSRC. This Vision document should describe ambitious plans for embedding impact across the RO, using (amongst other things) funded Pathways to Impact as the basis for these plans. The Vision, and a commentary describing how the RO has implemented it, will be used by the assessment panel as the basis for determining which RO has demonstrated most progress towards excellence with impact.

The EI form must include a letter of support from the Vice-chancellor of the RO, or Institute Director that endorses the entry and confirms a cross-institution commitment to the aims of the competition, and details of any institutional support for the competition. There should be no additional annexes or appendices, and the text should be Arial 11pt font or equivalent.

Subsequently, following consultation and support from BBSRC, ROs will submit a refined **Excellence with Impact Vision** form [Ewl Vision] which will include comprehensive details of the RO's Vision and proposed strategy to maximise the social and economic impact of their bioscience research, alongside details of their current portfolio of bioscience research, associated social and economic impacts and major outcomes to date by **31 May 2013**. The 'Excellence with Impact Vision' document will provide the baseline evidence detailing research funding success, current impact, and aspirations to progress its research towards impacts by which any outcomes through the competition will be evaluated. Detailed guidance on how to apply and relevant forms can be downloaded from www.bbsrc.ac.uk/excellence.

It is anticipated that participating ROs will liaise with BBSRC and submit a brief mid-term review that charts progress of the ROs' Ewl ambitions and includes examples of significant achievements, or case studies that may be completed/are being developed. ROs should note that the mid-term review is anticipated to be light touch and that while BBSRC reserves the right to make details of the mid-term review publicly accessible, it may not necessarily do so. BBSRC will consult with ROs prior to making mid-term reviews publicly accessible.

ROs will submit a Final Report to demonstrate how they have progressed in the delivery of their Vision.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Entries for the BBSRC Excellence with Impact Competition will be assessed by an expert Panel to be appointed by BBSRC. The Panel's evaluation of each entry will be based on the Ewl Vision, and Final Report, alongside RO visits by members of the expert Panel and BBSRC

staff. ROs are expected to provide a variety of qualitative and quantitative evidence in support (e.g. case studies, research/commercial income etc.).

Details on the format of the final report will be circulated well in advance of the **1 December 2015** (tbc) deadline.

The Panels will assess entries against the following criteria:

- Relevance to BBSRC-funded research and associated Pathways to Impact statements
 - ROs should demonstrate progress towards delivery of impact from significant BBSRC investments and research relevant to BBSRC strategic priorities.
- The extent to which the institution has achieved and demonstrated *significant*, and *varied* impact from its research.
- Demonstrated commitment to recognising the role impact awareness has in research activities.
- Evidence that impact generation is institution-wide and not restricted to the achievements of a few individuals, and includes students, research and support staff as well as academic staff.
- Impacts cited should have been progressed/realised as a direct result of activities that have been initiated and/or taken place during the period of the competition, though the research on which an impact is based may have been conducted at an earlier stage.

PARTICIPATION IN FOSTERING INNOVATION 2013 EVENT

BBSRC will invite participating ROs to the inaugural Ewl networking workshop and the high-profile 'Fostering Innovation 2013' event in London on 20 March 2013. A maximum of two representatives from each RO are required to attend. The 'Fostering Innovation' event will showcase Ewl participants' research strengths and potential impacts to an invited audience of leading figures from the worlds of investment, industry, government, charity and academia. ROs are expected to actively liaise with BBSRC's External Relations Unit to prepare materials for the publicity of their research and impact at the March 2013 event.

BBSRC will be announcing winners of Innovator of the Year and Activating Impact competition at the Fostering Innovation event, and ROs participating in Ewl will share the limelight with Innovator of the Year and Activating Impact award winners.

DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION

Expression of Interest form: submitted no later than **31 January 2013**.

Excellence with Impact Vision: submitted no later than **31 May 2013**.

Excellence with Impact Mid-term Review: submitted no later than **1 December 2014 (tbc)**.

Excellence with Impact Final Report: submitted no later than **1 December 2015 (tbc)**.

CONTACTS

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