

BBSRC INSTITUTE FELLOWSHIPS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Institute Career Path Fellowship (ICPF) Scheme

1). What is an ICPF and why was the scheme introduced?

An Institute Career Path Fellowship is designed to attract and support the best researchers in the early stage of their careers in strategically important areas targeted by BBSRC. The scheme was introduced to enhance the quality of science in BBSRC sponsored institutes in a targeted way, and the fellowship is based on the existing BBSRC David Phillips Fellowship.

2). What is the targeted area for 2010/11 and where can the Fellowship be based?

Proposals will this year be invited from applicants who wish to be based at any BBSRC Institute, including Roslin, IBERS and TGAC. The applicant's research programme should address the area of Food Security. A full remit description can be found on the BBSRC website.

3). The 2010/11 targeted area is not relevant to my research. Will I have the opportunity to attract fellows to work in my area under the ICPF scheme in the future?

The targeted area will be subject to review by BBSRC on an annual basis although it is possible that selected areas may be rolled over to ensure longer term strategic investment.

4). Who is eligible to apply?

The terms and conditions are based on the existing David Phillips Fellowship (DPF) Scheme and are fully detailed in the current BBSRC Research Fellowship Handbook. You can access this at www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/fellowships-index.aspx.

5). The eligibility criteria state that applicants should not hold an open-end academic position (or the equivalent in institutions). Does this mean that institute postdocs who we have moved onto open-ended contracts are ineligible?

The fact that a postdoc at an institute has been moved onto an open-ended contract does not make him or her ineligible – the key word here is “academic”; the applicant should not already be in an open-ended academic-level post. Band E is taken as equivalent to lecturer level in universities, and this is the band at which an institute scientist becomes eligible to submit grant proposals to BBSRC. Scientists below Band E will be eligible if they meet the eligibility criteria with regard to their active postgraduate and postdoctoral research experience, irrespective of whether they are still working on fixed-term contracts at Band D or are on open-ended contracts.

6). On what basis will successful Fellows be appointed?

Fellows will be employed on the Institute's terms and conditions, including pay, superannuation and National Insurance. They will be employed on a BBSRC Career Track Appointment in accordance with Appendix A1:5 of the BBSRC Employment Code which you can access at www.bbsrc.ac.uk/staff/code/welcome.html. Institute Career Path Fellows are usually appointed at Band E, however under fEC, we have moved away from specifying particular grades for the appointment of fellows, and this is now something that is decided between the applicant and the institution at the time that the application is submitted. With a career track appointment, it is expected that Fellows will be promoted at the end of the Fellowship. The normal expectation under the Career Track Appointment would be for the promotion to be to Band F (subject to successful performance and meeting the criteria specified for grading at that level). If the Fellow does not meet the required standard, then the Institute will need to consider other options as detailed in the Employment Code, and in the worst case this may mean redundancy procedures need to be followed.

7). What will be the duration of the Fellowship?

As with the David Phillips Fellowship, the Institute Career Path Fellowships are awarded for a period of five years (subject to satisfactory progress).

8). What other financial support does the Fellowship attract?

As part of the proposal the candidate applies for a research support grant to support the cost of their associated research. The research programme is costed on a full economic cost basis as with BBSRC grants, and resources must be fully justified.

9). How many Fellowships will be awarded each year?

It is anticipated that up to two ICPF Fellowships will be available each year, although the precise number available will depend on the costs of the individual fellowship proposals.

10). How will people find out about the scheme?

Advertisements for BBSRC fellowships are placed on the BBSRC website, however the institute will have a key role to play in promoting the availability of ICPF's through their own networks. Institute staff are best placed to know of promising early-career researchers in their field, and to bring the scheme to their attention.

11). Can an Institute Career Path Fellow move their fellowship to another institution in the same way that a David Phillips Fellow can move and take their fellowship with them?

No, the ICPF scheme is an investment in the skills base of a BBSRC Institute, and so the Fellowship is not mobile in the same way. If the fellow wishes to move to another institution, they would resign their fellowship, and the funding saved would be used to support further new fellowship appointments under the scheme.

Institute Development Fellowship (IDF) Scheme

1). What is an IDF and why was the scheme introduced?

An Institute Development Fellowship is designed to enable BBSRC scientists to undertake a period of collaborative work at another research organisation. The scheme was introduced to provide a mechanism for the influx of new ideas and new skills in strategically important areas to enhance the quality of science in [BBSRC sponsored institutes](#).

2). How are the strategically important areas defined?

For the 2010 competition the applicant's proposal should address the area of food security, a full remit description can be found on the BBSRC website. The targeted area is subject to review by BBSRC on an annual basis although it is possible that selected areas may be rolled over to ensure longer term strategic investment. **Proposals are particularly welcome from staff seeking to develop mathematical or systems approaches in their research.**

3). Who is eligible to apply?

You must be a research scientist at Band E or above on an open-ended contract in a BBSRC sponsored Institute (please note: Roslin, IBERS and TGAC are not eligible under this scheme) and have worked for a minimum of 5 years as at 1 October 2010 in your current or similar post. All other terms and conditions are based on the existing BBSRC Research Development Fellowship (RDF) Scheme (currently not open to BBSRC scientists) and are fully detailed in the BBSRC Research Fellowship Handbook. You can access this at www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/fellowships-index.aspx.

4). What will be the duration of the Fellowship?

Institute Development Fellowships are awarded for a period of between 6-12 months. You will be required to specify and justify the duration of the fellowship in your proposal.

5). Are the Fellowships restricted to the UK HEI sector?

No, you can propose to spend the time or a period of time at a laboratory abroad or in industry.

6). Can I apply for a Fellowship at another BBSRC sponsored Institute?

Yes, you can propose to spend the time or a period of time at another BBSRC sponsored Institute, although you would need to clearly demonstrate the added value of doing so in your proposal.

7). Can I apply for a research support grant?

Yes, a research support grant may be sought as part of your proposal to cover the costs associated with the proposed research development activity. The research programme is costed on a full economic cost (fEC) basis as with BBSRC grants, and resources must be fully justified.

8). Can my salary be claimed?

Yes, you may claim your salary as part of the overall costs (the BBSRC Research Fellowship Document refers). Just as with a fEC grant, your time spent on the Institute Development Fellowship is costed and justified within the proposal.

9). Should the institute cost in its estates costs to the proposal even though the fellowship is held elsewhere?

No, the Institute's estates costs should not be included. However, where the fellowship is to be held at a UK HEI, the host institution can cost in estate costs for your visit at the institution. (These cover, for example, the costs of providing you with lab or office space).

10). Can estate costs be claimed if I propose to spend time at a laboratory abroad or in industry?

No, estate costs are not applicable for either industry or research laboratories abroad.

11). How many Fellowships will be awarded each year?

It is anticipated that up to four Fellowships will be awarded each year, although the precise number available will depend on the costs of the individual fellowship proposals.

12). How will institute staff find out about the scheme?

Swindon Office will provide institutes with a notice which can be circulated to staff to bring it to their attention. The notice will also be accessible at www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/fellowships-index.aspx .

General

1). **How do people apply?**

Like all BBSRC Fellowships, proposals must be made through the Je-S (Joint electronic Submission) procedure (the BBSRC Fellowship Document refers). ICPF applicants should choose the “David Phillips Fellowship” from the drop-down menu, and IDF applicants select the “Research Development Fellowship”.

2). **Is there any additional information that applicants will need to provide?**

Yes, in addition to the usual Head of Department Statement required by Je-S, for ICPF proposals, the institute must confirm its agreement to appoint on a Career Track Appointment, and detail how the proposed research programme fits within the institute’s strategic plan.

3). **How are proposals costed?**

All fellowships must be applied for under Full Economic Costing (fEC) (the BBSRC Research Fellowship Document refers) and will be awarded on the basis of 80% of fEC, as with BBSRC grants. The institute is required to cover the remaining 20% from its own resources.

4). **How are proposals assessed?**

Proposals will be assessed by BBSRC’s Training Awards Committee (TAC). ICPF proposals will be progressed through the David Phillips Scheme and IDF proposals through the Research Development Scheme.

5). **What will be the closing date for receipt of proposals this year?**

In line with all BBSRC Research Fellowships the deadline for receipt of proposals will be **30 September 2010**.

6). **Can people submit more than one proposal?**

No, you can only submit one proposal for a BBSRC research fellowship each year. Proposals for more than one type of fellowship will not be considered.

7). **Who should I contact if I have a further question regarding either scheme?**

You should contact postdoc.fellowships@bbsrc.ac.uk. Queries regarding the Je-S system should be referred to JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk.