

Guidance for individuals considering applying for positions on the BBSRC Core Committees and the Pool of Experts.

BBSRC recognises the importance of having a balance of members on its Committees and Pool of Experts, in terms of gender, representation from industry, academia and research institutes, and institutional and regional representation. However, in the selection of all appointments, the excellence of the candidate will be the overriding criterion.

If you are considering applying to serve on one of the above groups we would first recommend that you talk to colleagues from your own institution or organisation who have served on BBSRC Committees or Panels about their experience and commitment. For lists of current memberships please see the BBSRC website (<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/organisation/structures/committees/committees-index.aspx>).

The list of questions below are designed to provide more detailed information to help you decide whether or not you would like to apply to serve on the BBSRC Pool of Experts and Core Committees.

Do I have the experience to serve on these groups?

BBSRC specifies in its Appointment Guidelines that applicants for membership of the Committees or Pool of Experts will be expected to have a background or an active involvement in research relevant to the area to which they are applying. We would look for this to be demonstrated by successful BBSRC grant income, referee reviews, BBSRC studentships and or involvement with other BBSRC activities. Typically you should have:

- expertise in a required area within BBSRC's remit
- at least five years experience working within academia or industry, at the level of lecturer, (or equivalent) or above

For applicants from academia or a research institute you should also have:

- two BBSRC research grants funded in the last five years in excess of £100K, as the Principal Investigator OR evidence of equivalent levels of research grant funding from other funding organisations
- a good response to requests to referee research grant applications from BBSRC
- evidence of refereeing for other UK and international funding organisations and journals
- regular publication of research in reputable journals and evidence of publication of research in high impact journals.

For applicants from industry you should also have:

- experience of successfully securing funding for research projects. This can be in an industrial context
- experience of assessing research proposals. This can be in an industrial context.

Additionally, for all applicants we will also consider:

- details of any BBSRC studentships awarded

- details of any prior involvement in other BBSRC activities, such as serving on other Committees or panels, advisory or steering groups or assessment panels.

All applicants through answering the questions on the Expression of Interest forms should demonstrate understanding of the BBSRC remit and how the applicant's expertise/research fits this remit.

How can I improve my referee response rate?

If you are interested in refereeing for BBSRC, the first step is to make sure that your JeS keywords are up to date and reflect your primary expertise. Applications are assigned to referees based upon these data. In addition, it would be helpful if you let the office know that you are interested in refereeing; please send an email to:

Research.Committees@bbsrc.ac.uk

We would encourage you to respond to as many of the requests as possible that are relevant to your expertise, in order to build up a good response rate.

How can I get involved in other BBSRC activities?

Many BBSRC activities are advertised on the BBSRC News Bulletin, you can sign up to receive this on the BBSRC website (<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/news/news-email>). If you are interested in participating in any of these activities please follow the relevant link for further information.

I come from an Institution/Organisation already represented within the Pool and Committees, will this affect my chances of being approved to serve on the Pool or a Committee?

BBSRC has to balance institutional representation on the Pool of Experts and its Committees. Consequently there will be competition for places on the Pool of Experts and Committees if applicants come from the same institution or organisation, and particularly if those applicants have similar expertise. If your institution or organisation is already represented on the Pool of Experts and Committees it will be important to demonstrate:

- the uniqueness of your expertise
- your seniority and experience
- previous BBSRC service history

If you have any further queries or would like any additional information please do not hesitate to contact us at: Research.Committees@bbsrc.ac.uk