

Biomedical Industry Engagement Fund

(Internal Call)

Applications are invited for flexible funds awarded to the University by the BBSRC¹ and MRC² to support innovative academic-industry interactions. These funds are available to University researchers working within the remit of the BBSRC and MRC (please see the Table 1 for specific restrictions from the two funders).

The scheme will support exchange of personnel, perspectives and knowledge, skills and expertise with industry partners to promote a culture of innovation aimed at translational aspects of research. It also aims to promote interactions that may lead to other translational funding e.g. MRC CiC grant applications.

The funding can be used for:

- Exploratory visits to/from potential industry partners
- Relationship development activities with a new industry partner
- Placements for University researchers to spend time with an industry partner
- Placements from industry to spend time in a University research group
- Organising/attending activities to support engagement with industry, e.g. training, seminars, workshops

Applicants will be asked to submit a proposal with clear objectives and anticipated outputs from the proposed activity; where relevant, applicants should identify potential routes for follow-on funding to support the long-term engagement with industry. Applications will be scored based on their relevance to research translation objectives, potential sustainability, and the involvement of an industrial partner. Collaborations with companies that are not yet strongly engaged with the University are particularly encouraged, and justification will be required for using this mechanism to work with existing strategic partners.

Guidelines

- There are differences in the funding available from the BBSRC and MRC, so please read the Table 1 to consider your eligibility. Applications will be assessed by a single panel; if you are unsure as to which funder is best-suited, please get in touch with us prior to submission of application.
- The activity/exchange can be outward or inward, but must involve an industry partner. **Outward applications** (i.e. visit/placement at the company) can be submitted by Principal Investigators (PIs) and early-career researchers as per the details given in the Table 1. **Inward applications** (i.e. hosting researchers from Industry) can be submitted by PIs.

¹ BBSRC Flexible Talent Mobility Account (FTMA)

² Biomedical Exchange Programme as part of MRC Proximity to Discovery (P2D) award

- Activities with spin-out companies from the University may only be considered where the company has achieved independent financial status and/or is otherwise an established business, but should be discussed prior to submission of application.
- The activity (visit, placement, exchange etc.) should provide at least one of the following:
 - the development of an industry partnership to foster longer-term collaboration
 - a unique skills/knowledge development opportunity for an early-career researcher

Table 1: Comparison of the funding schemes

	BBSRC FTMA	MRC Biomedical Exchange
Scientific remit	As per BBSRC research areas	As per MRC research areas
Funding core objective	Researcher talent development, industry placement	Industry collaborations, research development
Who can apply -		
PI/independent researcher	Inward	Inward and outward
Early-career researcher (i.e. postdoc, late-stage PhD)	Outward	Outward
Type of engagement -		
Exploratory visit	Yes	Yes
Scoping potential opportunities	Yes	Yes
Conducting (part of) research project	Yes	Yes
potential long-term collaboration	Not necessary	Desirable
Structure of engagement -		
Short visit	Yes	Yes
Part-time	Yes	Yes
Full-time	Yes	Yes
Intermittent	Yes	Yes
Duration of engagement	1 day to 3 months	1 day to 6 months
Maximum cost	£15,000	£40,000
Spending deadline	Wed 27 th Feb 2019	Fri 31 st Mar 2019

- **Eligible Costs**
 - Outward awards: Staff costs, travel and subsistence can be requested. The costs awarded for each activity/project must be fully justified and based on the duration and scope of activity.
 - Inward awards: Travel and subsistence, consumables, and other direct costs can be supported where justified. Funds cannot be used towards salary of incoming (industry) personnel. An exception to this may be made for small and medium sized companies where fully justified.
 - Please provide full Economic Costing (fEC) in your application. Please consult with your departmental finance team where necessary to obtain an X5 costing for your proposal.

Justified directly incurred costs at 100% fEC can be requested (e.g. contribution to salary of the researcher undertaking the placement, reasonable travel and subsistence costs, consumables or other direct expenses).

Funds **cannot** be used to support:

- Patent filing or similar costs for registering intellectual property rights.
- Non-specific public engagement activities and science communication that do not involve clear aim of building relations or collaboration with specific industry for specific research outcomes
- Directly allocated staff cost, estates costs, indirect costs or capital items of equipment.

Application process

Please read the guidelines to complete the Application form and other required documents. Please collate all the documents to submit as one file. Please contact Dr Ruchi Chauhan, ruchi.chauhan@admin.cam.ac.uk, (7)65056 or Dr Vibhuti Patel, vibhuti.patel@admin.cam.ac.uk, (7)64799 for initial advice and support.

You may also take advantage of our Industry Experts-in-Residence (EiR) programme (<https://www.ats.cam.ac.uk/what-we-do/research-development/entrepreneurs-residence>) to get advice prior to applying for this scheme. To set up a meeting with one of our EiRs, please contact Dr Ruchi Chauhan, ruchi.chauhan@admin.cam.ac.uk

Table 2: Important dates

Closing date for submission	Decision to Applicants	Spending completed	Final report due
2 nd July 2018	31 th July 2018	See the Table 1	31 st March 2019 (BBSRC) 30th April 2019 (MRC)

Depending on the nature of the work/activity to be carried out, it may be necessary to put a formal agreement (such as a CDA, contract) in place between the University and the Industry partner. This should be discussed with the company during the application process, as well as contact us to discuss appropriate agreement needed by the University. Also, applicants should keep in mind the delays caused in finalising the agreement for planning of projected start- and end-dates of the activity/project.

Assessment process

Funding will be awarded on a competitive basis. Applications will be considered by a cross-disciplinary panel with membership drawn from the University and industry. External panel members operate under confidentiality agreements.

Assessment criteria

- Relevance to objectives outlined above and the scientific remit of the BBSRC and MRC (see Table 1).

- Potential benefits to all partners, covering scientific/technical/business knowledge and broader learning relating to workplace processes and culture.
- Anticipated value added by the funding in terms of novelty of collaboration and/or research area plus potential for translational research impact, potential sustainability through further funding.
- Likelihood that the exchange/activity will lead to future collaborative work or future development opportunities for an early-career researcher.

Progress reviews, summary report and feedback

As a condition of the grant, review meetings must be held at mutually agreed times during the activity/project to monitor progress and identify any additional support needs. We will also ask all those receiving funds to submit a report at the end of the exchange/activity including:

- Summary: what was done, and how was the money spent? We will also seek feedback from partners involved.
- Outcomes and impact: what was achieved and how has this helped you/the company/other stakeholders? We may also invite you to participate in promotional activities to showcase the work supported by these awarded exchange/activities.
- Future: Please outline next steps in taking forward the activity supported, including potential future funding streams. Is there any support you need from us to achieve this?

Contact us

Any questions regarding the scheme should be directed to:

Dr Ruchi Chauhan

ruchi.chauhan@admin.cam.ac.uk, (7)65056

Dr Vibhuti Patel

vibhuti.patel@admin.cam.ac.uk, (7)64799

Flexible Early-stage Industry Engagement Fund

Application form

Please refer to the associated guidelines before completing this form. Complete all sections of the form and email to Dr Ruchi Chauhan, ruchi.chauhan@admin.cam.ac.uk

Applicants must make sure they are aware of internal departmental deadlines for approval by Head of Department before submission.

Proposal guidance

The proposal length should be appropriate to the activity and no more than 2500 words (approx. 4 sides of A4).

Please also include below items along with your application form, and submit as one document:

- A completed budget and signature form (Please see the form below)
- A letter of support from the company partner, including agreed details of the secondment of staff or type of activity being undertaken
- 2-page CV (without publications) of applicant

General information

Lead Applicant	
Type of exchange (*delete as appropriate)	Outward / Inward *
Working pattern (*delete as appropriate)	Full time / part time* (please give details)
Duration	
Estimated costs (attach completed budget form)	
Proposed participant's full name (if different from above)	
Participant's Department/institute or company affiliation	
Host company or host Department/institute	
Objective summary:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What questions do you hope to answer via this industry engagement? <i>(e.g. Through this short placement with the company I will better understand the market challenges of their business area, which I believe my research could help; spending 3 months full-time at the company will enable me to work closely with my collaborator to conduct a proof-of-concept study, providing data to apply for further funding).</i> - How does your proposed activity link to the translation of research and skills into new applications and solutions? 	

Cost:

- Specifically what will the funding cover? (e.g. staff costs/equipment/ consumables/travel/ other costs).

Industry partner:

- An overview of the chosen company and how this activity aligns with the company's and University's interests. Also, please detail company resources to be committed towards the proposed engagement, either directly or in-kind?

Team:

- Details of the team involved in the project/activity (company and University).

Proposed working pattern:

- A GANTT chart or similar document outlining working location, time allocation, full- or part-time and type of activity the persons will be engaged in should be provided. *This section is optional for BBSRC applicants.*
- Specific duration of the proposed activity/project along with a projected start- and end-date

Outcomes:

- Please describe anticipated outcomes and output including the expected benefits to the applicant, the company and the department/University. What will success look like?

Long-term potential:

- Please tell how you anticipate that the relationship will be sustained and further developed beyond the term of the exchange.

Other information:

- Please include any other information that may be relevant.

Flexible Early-stage Industry Engagement Fund Budget and Signature Form

- Directly Incurred Costs at 100% fEC will be covered by this grant. Please contact your DA/Research Finance Officer for help with your costing.
- Please submit this form as part of your proposal to **Dr Ruchi Chauhan**, ruchi.chauhan@admin.cam.ac.uk

Proposed start date:		Duration (max 6 months):		Type: Outward/Inward (delete as appropriate)	
Directly Incurred Costs	Description	100% fEC (£)	80% fEC (£)		
Staff Costs		£	£		
Equipment		£	£		
Consumables		£	£		
Other (please specify)		£	£		
Total		£	£		
Directly Allocated Costs					
Staff Costs		£	£		
Estates		£	£		
Indirects		£	£		
Total		£	£		

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR I declare that the information given on this form is complete and correct.		
Name (print):	Signature:	Date:
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT I confirm that I have read and support the application. I agree to the research being carried out, and will provide the necessary accommodation and facilities where relevant.		
Name (print):	Signature:	Date:
DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY I confirm that the application has been submitted with the agreement of the host institution and, if awarded, would administer the grant.		
Name (print):	Signature:	Date: