Technical Notes

- By default, attendees are muted and video is turned off.

- Turning off VPN may improve connectivity

- Submit any questions that arise as the webinar progresses via the **Q&A** function

- Please only use the chat function for any technical assistance during the webinar
  - Bear in mind your zoom name will be visible in the chat.
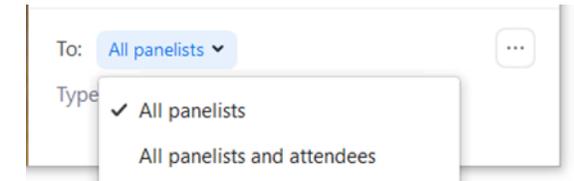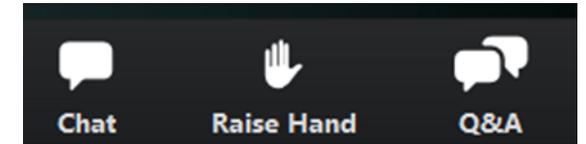
Questions

- You can submit questions during the webinar via the **Q&A** function

- Questions can also be submitted to PioneerAwards@bbsrc.ukri.org at any time. A team member will reply by email ASAP or we can arrange to speak

- Detailed questions about a specific proposal which are unlikely to be relevant to other attendees should also be sent to the inbox

- Questions about the UKRI Funding Service should be emailed directly to **support@funding-service.ukri.org**

UK RI

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Introductions

- Panellists
  - **Tom Pearson**: BBSRC Research Strategy and Programmes
  - **Matthew Weaver**: UKRI Simpler and Better Funding (SBF)
  - Peter Burlinson: BBSRC Research Strategy and Programmes
  - Jane Garrad: BBSRC Research and Innovation Funding Delivery
  - Megan Rafter: BBSRC Research Strategy and Programmes

- Questions about scope of scheme:
  - PioneerAwards@bbsrc.ukri.org

- Questions about UKRI Funding Service:
  - support@funding-service.ukri.org

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Purpose of the Webinar
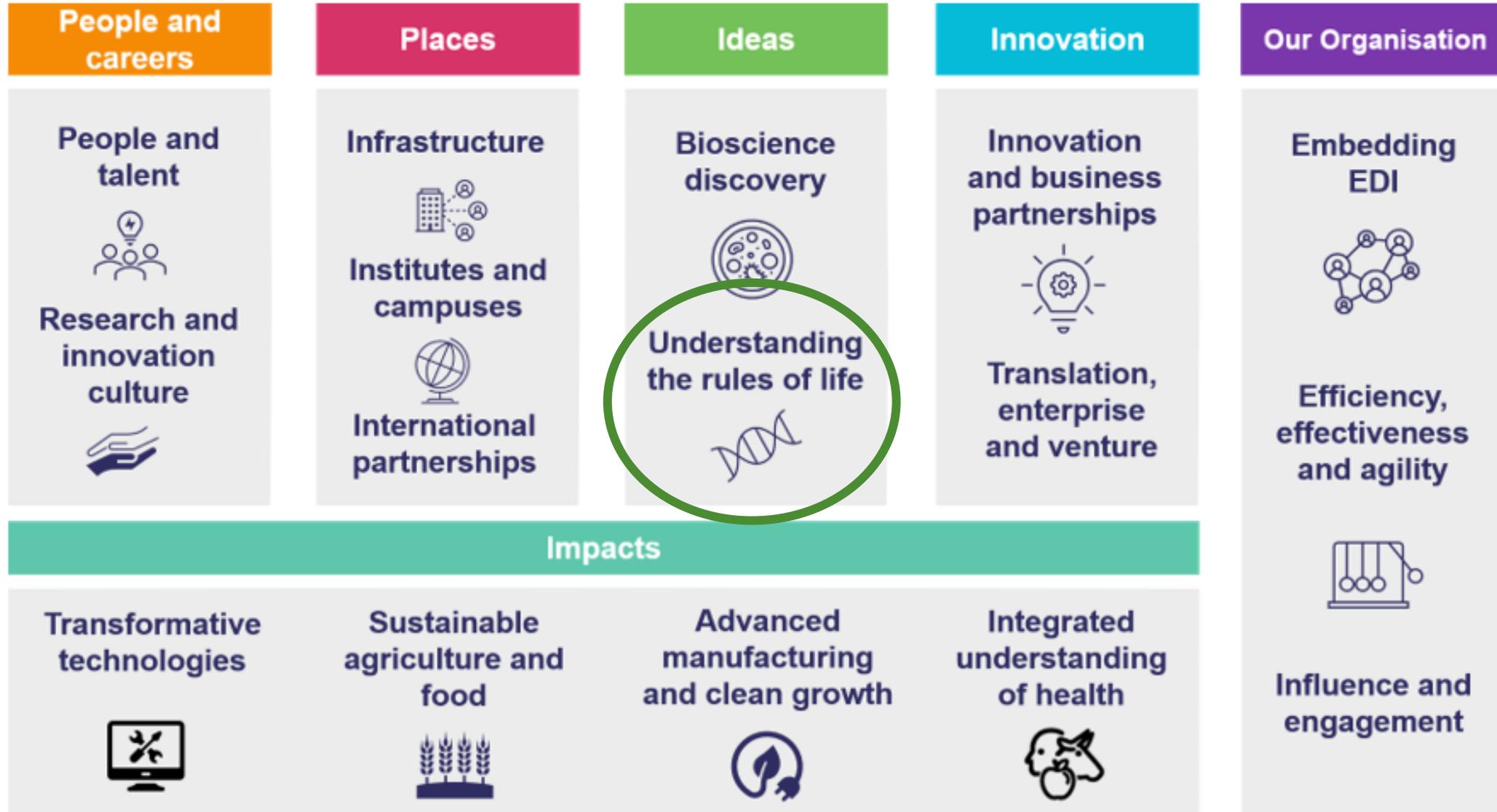
- Provide an overview of the Pioneer Awards opportunity

- Highlight key expectations

- Ensure applications are appropriately targeted

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Agenda

- Overview and the scope of the opportunity

- Application and assessment process

- UKRI Funding Service guidance

- Open Q&A

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Pioneer Awards and BBSRC strategy

People and careers	Places	Ideas	Innovation	Our Organisation
People and talent	Infrastructure	Bioscience discovery	Innovation and business partnerships	Embedding EDI
Research and innovation culture	Institutes and campuses	Understanding the rules of life	Translation, enterprise and venture	Efficiency, effectiveness and agility
	International partnerships			Influence and engagement

Impacts

| Transformative technologies | Sustainable agriculture and food | Advanced manufacturing and clean growth | Integrated understanding of health | |

Pioneer Awards opportunity overview

- Pilot opportunity to apply for funding for **high-potential research ideas** at a truly **early stage of development**

- **£4M** available in total
  - Our budget is limited (approximately 25 projects)

- Up to **£200k** (full economic cost)

- **6 months – 2 years** in duration

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Pilot funding opportunity

- New style of funding

- New application system

- Relatively short application and more rapid decision

- Subject to evaluation – we will need applicants and research organisations to play their part through providing feedback

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Scope – what are BBSRC looking for?

- **Visionary** and **untested** ideas
  - Challenging current paradigms in bioscience
  - Lacking preliminary data and significant prior evidence

- Potential to deliver a **step change** in our fundamental understanding of biological systems

- May require **unconventional** approaches to the research challenge

- May involve a **high level of uncertainty** or **exploratory** investigations

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Anticipated outcomes – what does BBSRC expect?

- Focus of scheme is on the potential to deliver **distinctive** outcomes, **if successful**

- For example:
  - making a discovery that upends current thinking
  - testing an unconventional idea at a disciplinary interface
  - opening a novel research direction or changing how we think about a field
  - demonstrating proof-of-principle
  - establishing feasibility of a new approach

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Application process

Expression of interest is mandatory
Full information is on the UKRI Funding Finder page

Expression of interest

- Deadline **10 January 2023, 16:00 (mandatory)**
- Submit via UKRI Funding Service

Full proposal

- Deadline **14 March 2023, 16:00**
- Submit via UKRI Funding Service

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Expression of interest

- We are using the expression of interest stage to:
    - ensure all potential applications are suited for the opportunity
    - provide an early indication of the research areas and overall level of demand

- This stage is 'light touch' with only brief information required

- You will receive brief feedback on suitability to the opportunity

- There is scope to adjust objectives and teams *after* expressing interest, provided the overall focus is broadly the same

- **We strongly recommend that institutions use an internal prioritisation process**

Deadline: **10 Jan 2023, 4 pm**

Expression of interest – what information is required?

- **Project summary**
  - Context
  - Aims and objectives
  - Fit to scope of the Opportunity

- **Applicants**

- No financial information required

- BBSRC will provide feedback on suitability to scheme

Deadline: **10 Jan 2023, 4 pm**

Full proposal – what information is required?

- **Vision**
  - How will your proposed research transform our fundamental understanding of biological systems, if successful?

- **Approach**
  - How are you going to deliver your proposed work?
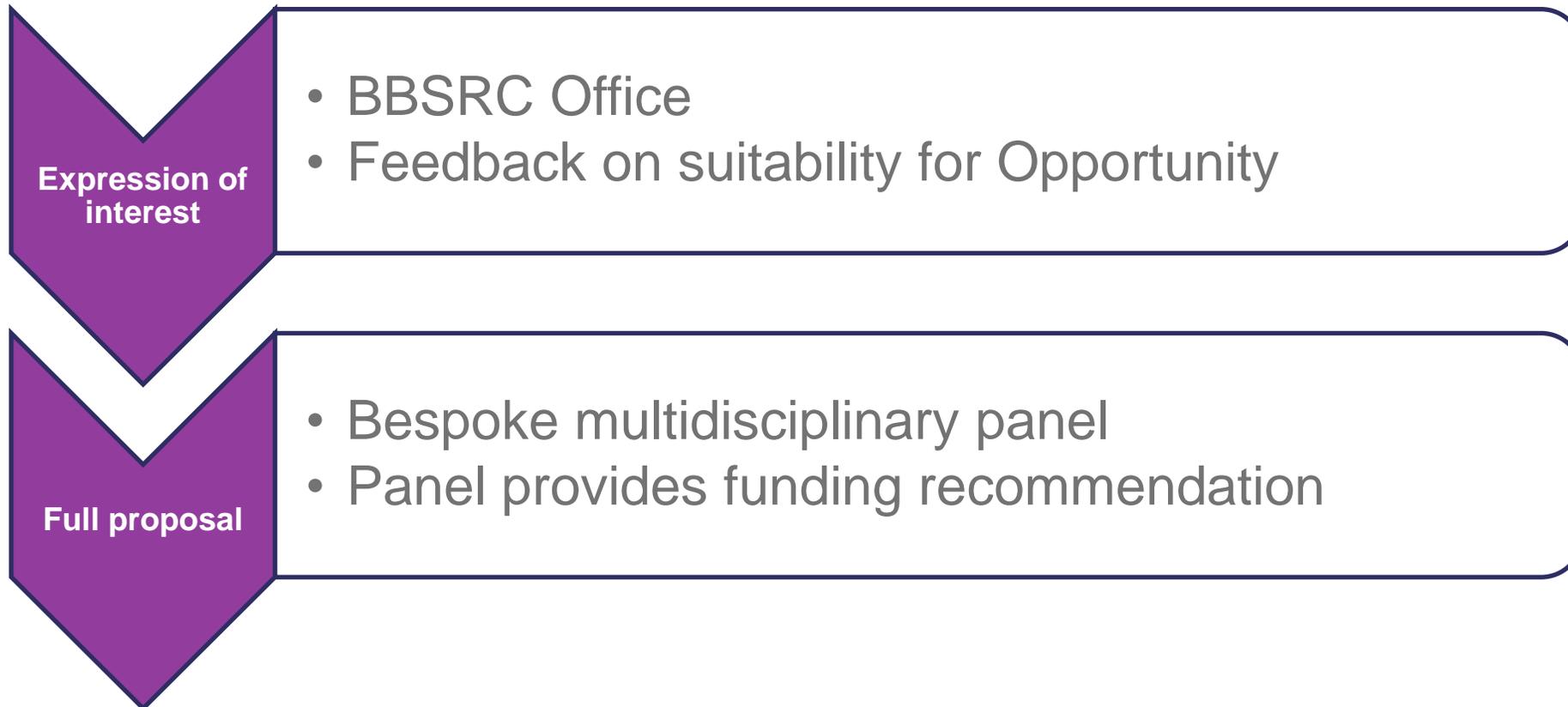
- **Team capability**
  - Focussed on specific capabilities to deliver project, not track record

- Additional sections:
  - **References**; **Costings**; **Animal usage; Ethics**; **Data management**; **Eligibility**

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Deadline: **14 Mar 2023, 4 pm**

Assessment process

Details of what happens at each stage

Expression of interest

- BBSRC Office
- Feedback on suitability for Opportunity

Full proposal

- Bespoke multidisciplinary panel
- Panel provides funding recommendation

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Assessment criteria

- Designed to embed a positive review culture in supporting early stage, exploratory ideas

- Focus is on potential of research to deliver distinctive outcomes if successful

- Four criteria:
  - Fit to scope
  - Transformative potential
  - Research excellence
  - Resources

Assessment process

- Panel-only assessment by broad, cross-disciplinary panel

- Panel will score proposals between 1.0 and 10.0 to 1 decimal place, then rank

- Panel may opt to randomise proposals on same score, if peer review cannot separate them

- Why might the panel find it challenging to separate Pioneer Awards?
  - Project outcomes inherently unpredictable
  - Streamlined process means there is less information that can be brought to bear in 'tie-breaker' situations

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Eligibility

- Standard BBSRC eligibility criteria apply

- We strongly encourage you to consider EDI when forming your team
  - Research organisations should also consider EDI in their portfolio of submissions

- We encourage Researcher Co-Investigator involvement, where they are adding value and with appropriate support

- You will be required to provide a statement within application confirming team member eligibility

Evaluation of pilot

- Following delivery of call

- Interested in things such as:
  - Distinctiveness of research supported
  - How applicants and panel members found process
  - Level of interest in scheme
  - Use of UKRI Funding Service
  - Science areas supported

- Collecting feedback via short survey

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**Biotechnology and
Biological Sciences
Research Council**

"We want to create an integrated research and innovation system that delivers for everyone" Professor **Dame Ottoline Leyser,** Chief Executive of UK Research and Innovation

Our Vision

UKRI's Simpler and Better Funding (SBF) programme is creating a funding service that is easy to use and supports everyone involved in research funding.
The goal is that UKRI operates a single, consistent user-centred service that reduces the burden of finding, applying for and managing research funding, gives UKRI evidence to support funding the best ideas, can respond and adapt easily to change.

UK Research and Innovation

What it looks like on TFS

APP102039
Application overview

Write application	Read application

1. Details	Incomplete	✏
2. Applicants	Incomplete	✏
3. Vision	Incomplete	✏
4. Approach	Incomplete	✏
5. Team capability	Incomplete	✏
6. References	Incomplete	✏
7. Full economic cost and justification of resources	Incomplete	✏
8. Animal usage	Incomplete	✏
9. Conducting research with animals overseas	Incomplete	✏
10. Other ethical considerations	Incomplete	✏
11. Data management and sharing	Incomplete	✏
12. Eligibility statement	Incomplete	✏

0% complete

Opportunity:
OPP202: BBSRC Pioneer Awards Full Proposal

Application reference:
APP102039

Applicant:
Matthew Weaver

Application deadline:
Tuesday 14 March 2023, 4:00pm

Funder(s):
BBSRC

BETA This is a new service – your feedback will help us to improve it.

< Back to application

APP102039

Applicants

For assessment purposes, name the key contributors to the proposed work. For example, Principal and Co-investigators and other senior researchers.

Add applicant

Name	Email	Role	Organisation
Matthew Weaver	matthew.weaver@ukri.org	Assign role	ZORG

☐ Mark as complete

Save and return

‹ Back to applicants

Add an applicant
Select role

◯   Co-investigator

◯   Researcher

◯   Technician

Continue

Cancel and return to applicants

Need help with this service? Contact us

< Back to select role

Add an applicant
Organisation search

Search for this applicant's organisation

[   ]

Search

Cancel and return to applicants

Need help with this service? Contact us

< Back to applicants

APP102039
Applicant details

Role
Co-investigator   Change

First name
[   ]

Last name
[   ]

Email address
[   ]

Organisation
| University of Kent |

Change organisation

Add applicant

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Approach

How are you going to deliver your proposed work?

▼ What the assessors are looking for in your response

You should:

- provide clearly defined, ambitious, and adventurous objectives
- describe a suitable programme of work to achieve the project aim(s), indicating the experimental and data analytical research to be undertaken
- identify any particularly innovative, unconventional methodologies or approaches that will be explored
- describe key milestones where you may need to make decisions, track, or evaluate progress
- demonstrate your awareness of any potential challenges, risks, or limitations of the proposed project
- describe any alternative approaches, or the learning potential in the event of negative results

It may be helpful to include a diagram that provides a visual overview. This can be uploaded as an 8MB PDF attachment.

Number your references in this section using a superscript citation style. Then include the details of these references in a corresponding list, in the 'References' section of this application.

Paragraph ∨	**B** *I* <u>U</u> x² x₂	⋮≣ ≣ ≣ ≣	🔗	⊞ ∨

You have 1500 words remaining

File upload

▶ Guidance for file upload

Choose File	No file chosen

☐ Mark as complete

Save and Return

Need help with this service? Contact us

Full economic cost and justification of resources

What will you need to deliver your proposed work and how much will it cost?

▼ What the assessors are looking for in your response

Download the **economic costing template (DOCX, 96KB)**, complete it and then upload it as a PDF as explained.

You should:

- Use the textbox to explain why the resources requested are appropriate, considering the nature and complexity of the proposed research.
- Include a statement in the textbox confirming that your organisation has agreed to offer support for equipment over £10,000, if applicable

BBSRC may request formal confirmation of your organisation's support, if you are successful. Where you do not provide explanation for an activity that requires justification, it will be cut from any grant made.

If you are including animal costs please provide detailed information, such as numbers that need to be bred or maintained, as part of what you write as your Justification of Resources. Please use robust processes to accurately estimate Directly Allocated animals costs to ensure that appropriate costs are requested to maintain high welfare standards.

Paragraph ⌄	**B**	*I*	U	x²	X₂	☰	☷	⇤	⇥	🔗	⊞ ⌄

You have 1200 words remaining

File upload

▼ Guidance for file upload

Download the **economic costing template (DOCX, 96KB)**, complete it and then upload it as a PDF

Choose File	No file chosen

☐ Mark as complete

Save and Return

Need help with this service? Contact us

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APP102039
Application overview

Write application | Read application
---

1. Details	Incomplete ✏
2. Applicants	Complete ✔
3. Vision	Complete ✔
4. Approach	Complete ✔
5. Team capability	Incomplete ✏
6. References	Incomplete ✏
7. Full economic cost and justification of resources	Complete ✔
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9. Conducting research with animals overseas	Incomplete ✏
10. Other ethical considerations	Incomplete ✏
11. Data management and sharing	Incomplete ✏
12. Eligibility statement	Incomplete ✏

Before you send this to your Research Office

Once you have marked your application as 100% complete, you can send it to your organisation's Research Office, for checking and submission to UKRI. Once you have done that, you cannot make make any more edits unless your Research Office returns it to you. Only they can submit applications made on this service to UKRI.

Send to Research Office

33% complete

Opportunity:
OPP202: BBSRC Pioneer Awards Full Proposal

Application reference:
APP102039

Applicant:
Matthew Weaver

Application deadline:
Tuesday 14 March 2023, 4:00pm

Funder(s):
BBSRC

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APP102039

Application overview

Read application

Contents

🖶 Print this page

| This is what your application will look like.

Untitled application

1. Details   Edit

Summary

No content has been added.

Start date

No content has been added.

Duration

No content has been added.

2. Applicants   Edit

Name	Role	Organisation	Email
Matthew Weaver	Co-investigator	ZORG	matthew.weaver@ukri.org

3. Vision   Edit

▶ View application question

asfsafa

4. Approach   Edit

▶ View application question

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UK Research and Innovation

Top tips and things to know

TFS Tips

- Create an account and complete your EDI profile – applications cannot be sent to the research office administrator unless this is completed
- Applications should be created by the PI rather than a member of the project team or research office
- As soon as you start your research office administrator will have visibility of the application
- Your research office administrator will need time to approve the application - account for this!
  - Know who your contact is
- TFS helpdesk support available
- Please provide feedback on anything not working so we can improve the service

FAQs – Eligibility

International co-investigators are not eligible to join this application. However, international non-funded Project Partners or collaborators can be included.

Fellows are only eligible as PI/Co-I if their fellowship is at a level equivalent to (or above) academic lecturer (in addition to meeting our other standard eligibility requirements).

Senior technicians are eligible as PI/Co-I if their position is at a level equivalent to (or above) academic lecturer (in addition to meeting our other standard eligibility requirements).

Researcher co-investigators are welcome where they have made a substantial contribution to the development of the project and will be engaged with the ensuing research at the eligible organisation of one of the Co-Is. They should be included as 'Researcher' in the application.

Further information on BBSRC eligibility requirements can be found [here](). We strongly recommend that you contact us at [PioneerAwards@bbsrc.ukri.org]() before submitting your final proposal if you are unsure of your eligibility to apply.

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FAQs - New Investigators

If I am awarded a Pioneer Award (which includes PDRA support), will I lose my BBSRC New Investigator status?

Yes, if you are the PI. BBSRC's normal rules regarding the new investigator scheme would apply to recipients of a pioneer award. Some additional information about the new investigator scheme can be found [here.](#)

FAQs - Demand management

Is there a limit on the number of applications a research organisation (RO) can submit?

There is currently no hard limit. We have indicated the likely number of awards (25) and call budget. ROs should use this as a guide to consider realistic submission numbers in the face of high quality competition nationally, as it is unlikely that any RO will have a large proportion of successful bids. Submission of high numbers of full proposals is therefore <u>strongly</u> discouraged. BBSRC will seek assurance that ROs with particularly high numbers of EOIs intend to perform (additional) internal prioritisation and are aligning applications to the purpose of the scheme.

When will research organisations be informed if further internal prioritisation is required?

BBSRC will contact ROs with particularly high numbers of EOI submissions within 5 working days of the EOI deadline.

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FAQs - Demand management (continued)

How many times can I apply for a Pioneer Award?

You are only allowed to submit one application as PI for a Pioneer Award. There is no limit on the number of applications you can be included on as a Co-Investigator, however please note that these applications will be assessed in competition with each other.

FAQs – Research focus

Is there an expectation that projects be multi-disciplinary?

The scheme welcomes multi-disciplinary research but it is not a requirement.

Can I include a partner from industry? Would this be looked on favourably?

Industrial partners are allowed. However, please note that applications with a focus on user-driven challenges are excluded; for example, from industry or addressing applied challenges.

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FAQs – Research focus (continued)

Is applied research allowed?

No, applied research will be considered out of the scope of this scheme. Please see the funding finder page for further details.

Can I incorporate technology/ methodology development in my proposal?

Yes, however you must explain how this has been inspired by a specific biological question relevant to the understanding the rules of life area, ideally with demonstration of proof of concept forming part of your proposal. You should describe the distinctiveness of the question and explain how addressing it has the potential to transform the field.

FAQs – Project start date

When should my project start?

Successful proposals are not subject to a fixed start date. We expect outcomes to be communicated in June 2023 with projects starting no earlier than late July 2023. You should consider what a realistic and timely start date is likely to be when putting your proposal together. Awards will be subject to the standard UKRI terms and conditions, including those related to starting procedures.

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FAQs - Expression of Interest stage

When will I hear back from BBSRC about my expression of interest?

EOIs will be assessed on a rolling basis by the office. You will hear back within 15 working days of submitting your EOI. You will receive feedback on whether your project fits the scope of the Pioneer Award scheme and remit of BBSRC.

Do as-of-yet unhired or unnamed staff (for example, PDRAs) need to be included within the EOI?

No, only known applicants (for example, co-investigators, technicians, and/ or researcher co-investigators) should be included within the EOI. There is flexibility to adjust the team composition at Stage 2.

Can I change my project between the EOI and full stage?

Yes, small changes are allowed. We recognise that as you develop a full proposal there may be a slight shift in research focus. However, we would expect you to contact BBSRC for approval if you are planning to introduce entirely new aims or objectives.

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FAQs - Costs

Can directly incurred costs for salaries be included in this scheme and, if yes, are there any limits on the proportion of the award that the salaries can represent?

Yes, salaries can be included in the costs. We expect spending to be appropriate and justified for the project described.

Are institutional overheads included in the £200k?

Yes, this figure is based on the full economic cost.

Would BBSRC expect evidence of support and resources for the project above the funding provided? For example, 'match funding' from host Research Organisations?

No, there is no requirement nor expectation of 'match funding'.

Including indirect costs, £200k may not be sufficient for the two year project I have planned, what should I do?

You should scale your project according to the resources available. There is no requirement for projects to last two years.

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FAQs- Assessment of proposals

To what extent is the track record of the investigator weighted for evaluation (e.g. in comparison to a standard grant)?

Overall the emphasis in the scheme is on the idea rather than past track record. We are not accepting CVs for the scheme. Full proposal applications should convince the panel that you have the capability to deliver the project in terms of skills and expertise required. Please see the funding finder page for further details.

What level of risk will the panel accept?

The scheme intends to have a high tolerance for risk – it will use bespoke assessment criteria designed to embed a positive review culture in supporting 'high-risk' ideas. The assessment will focus on the potential of the idea rather than a detailed assessment of preliminary data or track record. However, the panel will be looking for evidence that you have considered the broad feasibility of the project, any potential risks involved and the learning potential in the result of negative results.

Is there a requirement for preliminary data?

There is no requirement for preliminary data. However, we will expect applicants to provide relevant background and reasoning for why their research idea might work as well as a risk assessment to demonstrate that the research is well thought out.

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FAQs - General

Will there be another Pioneer Awards call?

No decisions have been made yet regarding whether the call will run again. We will be undertaking an evaluation of the pilot call following its completion.

How was the maximum cost of £200k per project decided?

The maximum cost per project considers the total budget available and the high-risk nature of the proposals expected. £200k is expected to be appropriate for pump-priming new research ideas over a 6 month to 2 year project duration. It is similar to funding provided through comparable schemes operated by other funders and will be reviewed as part of the wider evaluation of the pilot.

Have BBSRC considered how such short contracts (a maximum of 2 years) will impact on career development of staff?

We appreciate that a relatively short and potentially 'high-risk' project will not appeal to all researchers. However, we anticipate that staff may benefit from unique opportunities offered by a Pioneer Award, for example: training in unconventional methodologies or thinking, working at disciplinary interfaces, or the freedom to conduct exploratory investigations. In some circumstances, pioneer award funding could be used as a supplement to an existing team where staff are already in place; for example, to buy-out time for technical or staff scientist roles. Additionally, staff can be named as researcher co-investigators as evidence of their involvement in acquiring research funding.

Summary

- Read the opportunity text and formal eligibility requirements carefully

- https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/pioneer-awards-early-stage-frontier-bioscience-research/

- Address the assessment criteria and the opportunity scope

- Ensure you communicate your proposal clearly, for both subject specialists and a more general scientific audience

- Apply for this opportunity through UKRI Funding Service

- **If in doubt, please contact us for advice: PioneerAwards@bbsrc.ukri.org**

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Thank you

Please use the Q&A function to ask any questions

PioneerAwards@bbsrc.ukri.org

https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/pioneer-awards-early-stage-frontier-bioscience-research/