

BBSRC FLEXIBLE TALENT MOBILITY ACCOUNT GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

Contact: Dr Louise Sherlock, Funding Strategy Manager, Research Office

(researchoffice.fundingstrategy@imperial.ac.uk)

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/research-office/funder-information/funding-opportunities/internal-funding-opportunities/ftma/>

1. Purpose

The Flexible Talent Mobility Account (FTMA) supports the mobility and development of academic and industrialist early career researchers (ECRs) and technicians to new environments, with the intention of increasing porosity between sectors and institutions as well as providing a platform for training and skills development. The aim of the FTMA is to pump-prime the establishment of new academia-industry interactions and further develop existing ones. The FTMA will support the exchange of personnel, perspectives and knowledge, skills and expertise between the academic and industrial sectors. Neither the staff nor activities undertaken need to have been funded by BBSRC or based on BBSRC-funded research, but must be within [BBSRC remit](#).

2. Funding and activities

Imperial has applied to BBSRC for £90,000 to fund a range of activities including, but not limited to:

- Outward secondments for ECRs and technical staff to industry or another institution where activities have links to an industrial partner (1-3 months)
- Inward secondments for ECRs and technical staff from industry to Imperial, or from another institution to Imperial where activities have links to an industrial partner (1-3 months)
- Short exchanges for technical staff to develop knowledge and skills that could be applied to industry-relevant research (less than 1 month).
- Training and development activities to help ECRs and technicians engage with industry partners.

Funding is dependent on BBSRC awarding Imperial the FTMA grant. This should be communicated by the end of October 2021.

Awards will be distributed internally based on 100% direct costs excluding investigator time, estates, infrastructure technicians and indirect costs. **The earliest activities can start is 1 December 2021, and all activities and spend must be completed by 31 March 2022.**

3. Eligibility

The FTMA can only be used to support employed researchers or technicians. Academics that have attained lecturer or equivalent status, or PhD students who have recently submitted their thesis, are not eligible to apply. The FTMA can be used to support non-UK nationals to undertake short-term secondments and research collaborations at Imperial.

Neither the benefitting staff nor activities undertaken need to have been funded by BBSRC or based on BBSRC-funded research, but must be within BBSRC remit.

Eligible costs:

Funds can be used for Directly Incurred including salary (and associated superannuation and NI contributions) and reasonable travel, subsistence and consumables costs as necessary to support the activity. Staff must be eligible to work in the UK for the duration of the project.

Ineligible costs:

Funds cannot be used for investigator time, estates, infrastructure technicians or indirect costs.

4. How to apply

Each application should have a nominal Principal Applicant, who must be an Imperial member of academic staff acting as a supervisor/host, and where the activity will benefit an individual, a named ECR/Technical Staff applicant.

Applicants should submit the following documents:

- FTMA cover sheet (available on webpage)
- A written case for support of up to two pages to include:
 - a) A description of the activities to be supported, including clear objectives and milestones.
 - b) How the proposed activities/background to the activities is within BBSRC remit.
 - c) A description of the partner institution where relevant (e.g. new/existing partner with Imperial, relevance to the development needs of the ECR or technical staff member).
 - d) How the activities will work towards the aim of the FTMA of establishing new, or developing existing, interactions with industry.
 - e) How the proposed activities support the development needs of the ECR or technical staff member beyond the opportunities available in their role.
 - f) A consideration of opportunities for follow-on activities and maintaining the relationship with the industrial partner.
- A Worktribe budget statement approved by the Department of the Imperial Principal Applicant (price recovery screen)
- Partner letter of support, where applicable (mandatory for secondment/placement activities)

Proposals do not need to be reviewed by Research Services prior to submission. Applications should be submitted to researchoffice.fundingstrategy@imperial.ac.uk.

5. Deadlines

Applications will be considered on a monthly rolling basis until remaining funds have been allocated; applications received by 5pm on the first Monday of the month will be reviewed and applicants informed of the outcome within that month.

6. Review of Applications

All eligible applications submitted will be considered for funding by the [Cross-College Research Proposal Review Group](#). The group will rank the proposals after considering the likelihood that the proposed activities would amplify bioscience engagement with industry or business. Successful proposals will be those assessed as having the highest likelihood of supporting the purpose of the scheme, rather than to any specific pre-selected challenge areas.

A formal letter confirming the outcomes will be sent to Principal Applicants. Feedback will be limited to a statement of success or otherwise unless the group decides that additional feedback is necessary or useful.

7. Accessing Funds

Information on how to access funds will be provided to successful applicants with their award letter.

8. Reporting

Applicants will be required to provide a final report after the completion of the funded activity:

- Whether the objectives were achieved and how the aims of the FTMA scheme were met;
- How the funds have supported the development of the ECR/technical staff member;
- Outputs and outcomes obtained;
- Envisaged future development.

It is an additional requirement for outcomes and impacts from projects funded by this grant to be reported in Researchfish®.

9. Terms and conditions

[UKRI Standard Grant Terms and Conditions](#) apply. In addition, funds must be spent in accordance with Points 1 -3 of this document and reporting requirements met as described in Point 8.

The College is a proud signatory to the San-Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), which means that in hiring, promotion and research funding decisions we will evaluate applicants on the quality of their work, not the impact factor of the journal where it is published. More information is available at <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/about-imperial-research-evaluation/>.