



# BBSRC Support for Early Career Researchers Science and Training Opportunities



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# Support For Early Career Researchers

- Fellowships
- Researcher Co-Investigator
- BBSRC Postdoc Vision Statement



# Why Does BBSRC Invest In Fellowships?

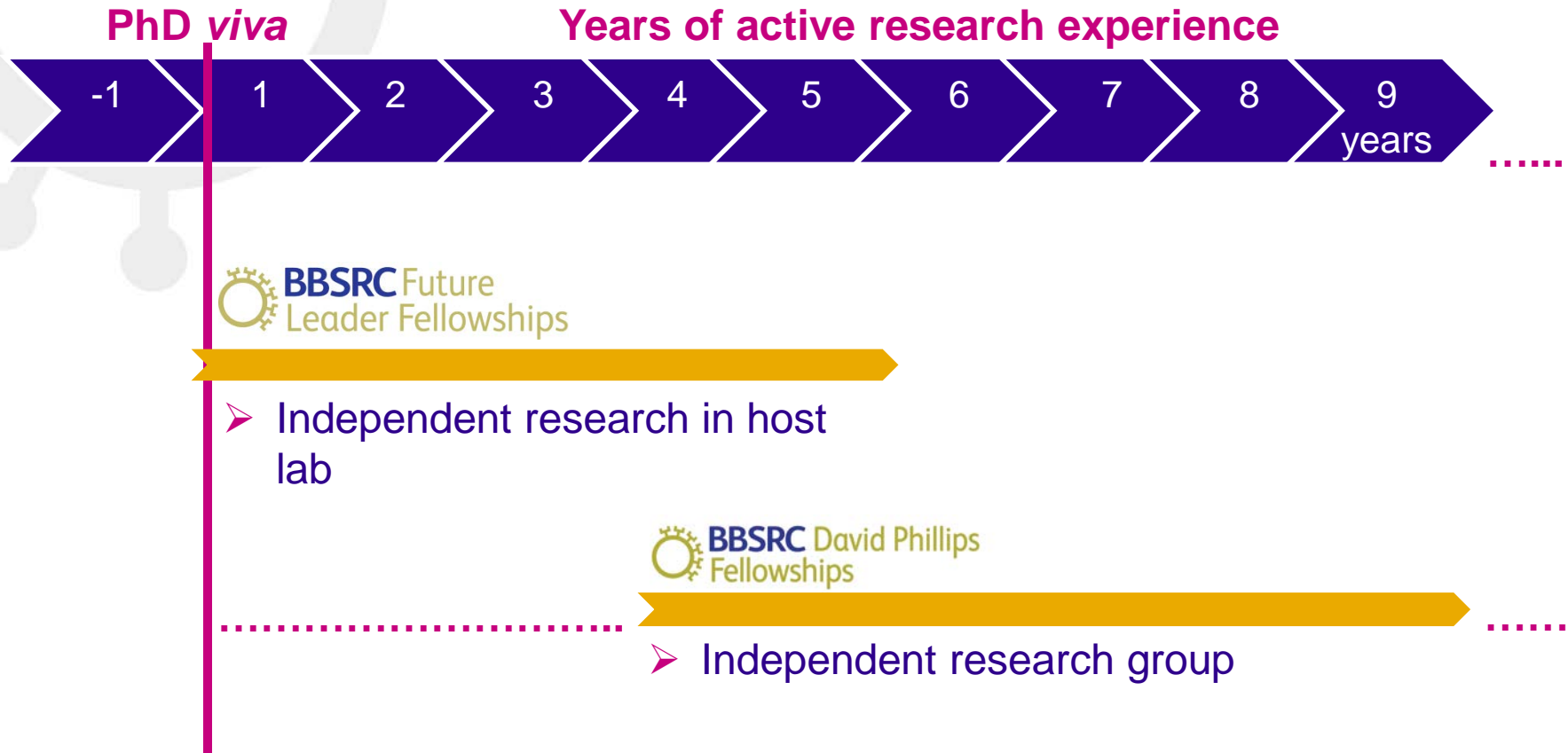
**Support outstanding scientists at key transition points**  
in their research career

- Independent postdoctoral research
- Independent group
- Returning from a career break
- Developing a new business

# Why Does BBSRC Invest In Fellowships?

- Identify the **research leaders** of tomorrow and support existing ones to **establish themselves**
- **Build cohorts** of excellent researchers and support their training
  - Kick-off meeting
  - Fellow's Conference
  - Other activities

# BBSRC Fellowships



Full details available on the BBSRC Fellowships webpage: [www.bbsrc.ac.uk/fellowships](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/fellowships)

# Future Leader Fellowship

Support for early career scientists with **high potential** to undertake independent research and gain leadership skills. Developing **future leadership skills** is key

- **Remit:** FLFs can be in **any area of BBSRC remit**
- **Number, duration & value:** it is expected that **around 12 will be awarded (3 year duration)**, up to **£300k** can be requested
- **Eligibility:**
  - Researchers with **a maximum of 5 years of postdoctoral research experience** as of 30 November 2017
  - No restrictions on nationality
  - Supports flexible working
- Call **currently closed** but is expected to open **February 2017**

# David Phillips Fellowship

Aimed at **outstanding bioscientists** in the early stage of their research careers who wish to establish themselves as independent researchers

- **Remit:** DPFs can be in **any area of BBSRC remit**
- **Number, duration & value:** it is expected that around **5 will be awarded (5 year duration)**, up to **£1M** can be requested
- **Eligibility:**
  - **Minimum** 3 years of active postdoctoral research
  - No restrictions on nationality
  - Supports flexible working
- Call **currently closed** but is expected to open **February 2017**

# Assessment Criteria

- Scientific **quality** of the proposed research
- Scientific **independence**
- How the Fellowship will be **used to advance your career**
  - **FLF**: Mandatory **Career Development Plan** to demonstrate thought given to **future career** and identified **training needs**
- **Choice of host** institution and evidence of **support & value for money**
- **Funding** acquired
- **Supervision** experience
- Number and quality of **publications** (accounting for field)
  - Important for the **DPF**, less so for the **FLF**



# Good Fellowship Applications

- Are proposing a scientifically **excellent** and **realistic research project** that can be completed within the time available
- Demonstrate **independence**
  - and for the **DPF** an **upward career trajectory**
- Include evidence of **scientific leadership**
- Show consideration of **career development**
- Are aware of the “**bigger picture**”
- Show **support** from the host

# Good Fellowship Applications

## Independence

- Not just carrying on a PI's project
- Evidence that you have or are developing different skills to those in your current group
- Bring complementary skills that are not present in your proposed host lab / institution
- Collaborations set up independently of PI
- Generation of preliminary data

## Scientific leadership

- Invitations to talk
- Poster prizes and other awards
- Collaborations
- Media requests / appearances
- Involvement in large collaborative projects

## Career development plan

- Helps by clearly showing where you want to be, how you will get there and what training is needed to achieve this
- Be upfront about weaknesses and state how the Fellowship will help you address them

## Your project and the bigger picture

- Project must be achievable in time frame
- How will the project complement the field; avoid competing with potential competitors
- How will the project be used to generate data that allows you to establish a scientific identity > have a long term research vision
- Be aware of the potential wider and long-term impact of the research

# Raise Your Profile

## Apply for small awards

- Travel grants, prizes, equipment etc.
- Undergraduate placement students

## Network

- Attend conferences
- Talks at other institutions
- Use social media such as **Twitter, LinkedIn** and **blogging**

## Researcher Co-Investigator status

- Postdoc who has made a **substantial, recognised contribution** to the **formulation and development** of a project and who will be **engaged in the ensuing research**
  - Research grants
  - International partnering schemes

# Common Reasons For Future Leader Fellowship Rejection

- Not demonstrating **leadership potential**
- **Insufficient** thought given to career development needs
- Lack of awareness regarding **potential competitors**
- **Independence not clear** - just more of what your PI is currently doing

# Common Reasons For David Phillips Fellowship Rejection

- Project **unrealistic** or the proposal is **poorly thought-through**
- **Independence not clear**
- **Insufficient** first author **papers**
- Papers are in **low impact** journals (accounting for field)

# Other Fellowships

## Daphne Jackson Trust Fellowship

Daphne  
Jackson  
Trust



- ❖ To aid those on a **career break for** family, caring or health reason to **return to research**
- ❖ Normally **2-3 years part-time**; includes extensive training programme
- ❖ [www.daphnejackson.org](http://www.daphnejackson.org)

## Enterprise Fellowship



- ❖ To support **development of a new business**, building on previously funded BBSRC research
- ❖ Delivered by the Royal Society of Edinburgh
- ❖ [www.bbsrc.ac.uk/fellowships](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/fellowships)

## Applying: Before You Start

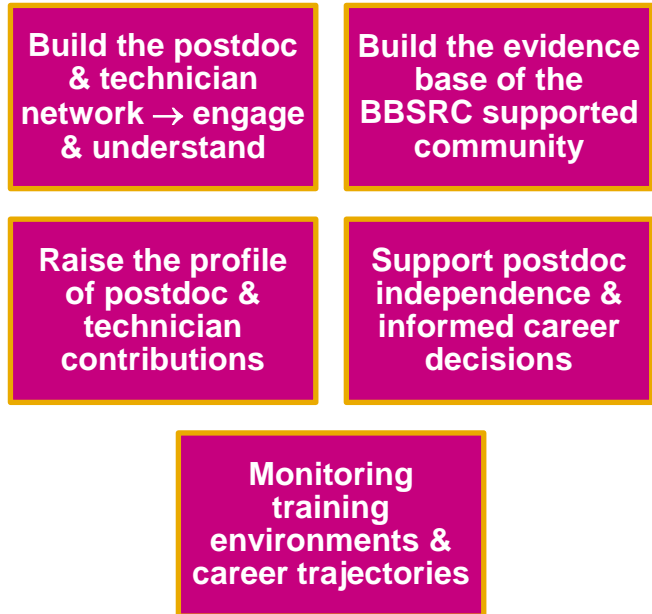
- **Read** all the guidance
- Check the **remit** of your proposal!
- Contact **remit@bbsrc.ac.uk** for clarification on eligibility, and **postdoc.fellowships@bbsrc.ac.uk** for general Fellowship questions
- If in doubt: **Ask!**

# BBSRC Vision For Postdoctoral Researchers

## Statement



## Delivering



[www.bbsrc.ac.uk/skills/developing-careers/postdoctoral-vision](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/skills/developing-careers/postdoctoral-vision)

<http://tinyurl.com/BBSRCPostdocs> [BBSRC Postdoc LinkedIn Group]





# Questions



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