



Minutes

Meeting: UKRI-BBSRC Bioscience for PEOPLE AND TALENT STRATEGY ADVISORY PANEL

Date and Time: 14th and 15th October 2024

Venue: Holiday Inn, Nottingham

Attendance

Panel Members
Jerry Roberts (Chair)
Clare Stevenson
Jacqueline Hall
Catherine Jopling
Mary Doherty
James Henstock
Karen Halliday
Jon Lane
Karen Clegg (Virtual, Day 2)
Invited Experts
Jordan Cuff (Researcher Subgroup)
Stephen Marshall (Researcher Subgroup)
Jane Eagling (Research Technical Professional Subgroup)
Alicia El Haj (Bioscience for an Integrated Understanding of Health SAP)
Jasmeet Kaler (Sustainable Agriculture and Food SAP)
Ellis O'Neill (Bioscience for Advanced Manufacturing and Clean Growth SAP)
BBSRC Office
Karen Lewis
Rob Hardwick
Clare Bhunnoo
Aidan Grimsley
Emily Finnegan
Javier Pardo Diaz
Harriet Day
Apologies
Anastasia Callaghan
Richard Emes (Transformative Technologies SAP)

Agenda

Timing	Item	Item Ref / Lead	Page
	Monday 14th October 2024		
12:00-12:15	Introduction + DOI check	Oral Jerry Roberts	
12:15-12:30	BBSRC Update	Oral Karen Lewis + Robert Hardwick	
12:30-13:30	Lunch		
13:30-15:30	Spending review + presentations from invited SAPs, core PAT SAP and subgroup representatives	Oral Robert Hardwick	
15:30-16:00	Break		
16:00-17:00	Doctoral Focal awards Phase II	PAT 01_02_24 Harriet Day	4-6
18:30-21.00	Group Dinner at Holiday Inn Nottingham		
	Tuesday 15th October 2024		
From 8:45	Convene and refreshments		
9:00-9:30	Fellowships update	PAT 02_02_24 Aidan Grimsley	7-8
9:30-9:45	Update on mobility group work	Oral Javier Pardo	
9:45-10:20	EDI and Culture updates	PAT 03_02_24 Clare Bhunnoo	9-11
10:20-10:30	Doctoral Landscape award Outcomes	Oral Harriet Day	
10:30-11:00	Break		
11:00-12:00	Spending review re-visit + priorities	Oral Robert Hardwick	
12:00-12:30	AOB	Oral Jerry Roberts	
12:30-13:30	Lunch + farewell		

Summary and actions

Item	Paper ID.	Summary and actions
1	Welcome and Introductions	Jerry Roberts welcomed the panel and invited the Subgroup and Strategy Advisory Panel representatives to introduce themselves. Jerry Roberts also acknowledged the declarations of interests (DOI) for the panel.
2	Directors Update	Karen Lewis outlined BBSRCs updates, which included the upcoming spending review, recent horizon scanning and BBSRCs Community Webinar due to be held in December. Rob Hardwick outlined BBSRCs talent updates and priorities, which included increased doctoral support, EDI and Phase I and Phase II budget spending options.
3	BBSRCs Spending Review	Invited experts (PAT SAP Subgroup members and representatives of the other BBSRC SAPs) explained their communities' priorities for the spending review. The panel particularly focused on studentships, fellowships and career pathways in the biosciences. The panel asked BBSRC to explore data available on post-PhD career pathways to help inform future discussions on this topic.
4	Doctoral Focal Awards Phase II	Harriet Day asked the panel to identify priority themes for the second phase of focal awards. The panel identified the following priorities: precision fermentation, non-animal technologies, food security and climate change, microbiome, ageing and Agri-systems. The panel noted the absence of technology development
5	Fellowships Update	Aidan Grimsley introduced this item and asked the panel to provide feedback on the fellowship model. The panel made several suggestions including: adopting the UKRI FLF model in the short term, limiting the number of applications per institution, shortening or reducing the cost of each fellowship to release money to fund more fellowships and a lottery system for submissions and re-submissions. The panel were concerned that fellowships are oversubscribed, and earlier career researchers are less likely to be selected compared to those who have received internal fellowships. The panel discussed career pathways and asked BBSRC to source data on FLF extension requests and career pathways after their fellowship to help inform future discussions.
6	Update on Mobility Group Work	Javier Pardo-Diaz introduced this item and provided an update on the Flexible Talent Mobility Accounts (FTMA). The panel suggested that BBSRC integrate the mobility workstreams into the Résumé for Research and Innovation (R4RI) and requested that FTMA mid-year reports are shared with the panel at a future meeting.
7	EDI and Culture Updates	Clare Bhunoo introduced this item and summarised BBSRCs recent progress within the EDI and research culture space, including the EDI Networks Call and the Connecting Culture Fund. The panel focused on the apprenticeship model for career development and the importance of best practice sharing within the biosciences. The panel particularly emphasised the need to share best practice post-award, without the impact of competition. A workshop for Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) managers is planned in 2025 and the panel asked BBSRC office to include a

		DTP workshop discussion to the next PAT SAP agenda if the workshop has not already taken place.
8	Doctoral Landscape Awards Outcomes	Harriet Day introduced this item. At the time of publication, this information was embargoed.
9	Spending Review revisit	Rob Hardwick asked the panel to summarise their discussions and provide a list of priorities for BBSRC in the event of a funding cut and in the event of increased funding. The panel put forward suggestions that included: Funding Cut: leveraged funding, reforming the fellowship model, understand career pathways and improve student experience. Funding increase: prioritise impact and visibility activities and BBSRCs communications strategy, ringfencing funding for underrepresented groups and RTPs, technical fellowships or technology focal awards and postdoc retention.
10	AOB	Jerry Roberts concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their contributions

