**BBSRC/EPSRC/MRC/NERC- Engineering biology research, community, and capacity development – Transition Awards**

***UCL internal review process***

Interested applicants should read the full scope and eligibility criteria on the [call webpages](https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/engineering-biology-research-community-and-capacity-development/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).

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| UCL internal EOI deadline | Thursday 12th August at 11am |
| UCL to feedback to candidates’ outcomes of review | w/c 30th August 2021 |
| Funder application deadline | 22nd September 2021 at 4pm |
| *Further timeline available on the call webpage* | |

The BBSRC are delivering this funding call, on behalf of UKRI partners, for research, community and capacity development in engineering biology. This funding comes from the Engineering Biology Transition Awards.

Projects must align with the themes of the proposed [National Engineering Biology Programme](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/BBSRC-200721-EngineeringBiologyOverview.pdf) (NEBP). Applications are encouraged from other disciplines and communities, as well as applications with industrial partners

Institutions are encouraged to rigorously consider and prioritise applications submitted to this funding opportunity and while there is no limit on the number of applications per institution, where more than one application is submitted from a single lead institution, it should be clear in the cover letter of each the complementary and thematic distinction between the applications. For this reason, UCL is asking potential applicants to take part in the light touch review process outlined below to allow us to oversee the applications being submitted from across the college.

***UCL review process (all UCL) – deadline Thursday 12thAugust at 11am***

All applicants intending to apply for this call (i.e. with UCL as the lead institution, host for the PI) must complete a short UCL expression of interest form (3 sections, up to 300 words each) and submit to [slms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:slms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk) by Thursday 12th August at 11am. Please put “Engineering Biology Transition Awards + [your name]” in the email subject line.

* Expression of interest form is available to download on our LMS [internally managed calls page](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/school-life-medical-sciences/about-slms/office-vice-provost-health/research-coordination-office/funding-opportunities/internally). If you cannot download the form, please contact [slms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:slms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk)

Following the review, potential applicants (Principal Investigators) **will receive brief feedback and advice on how to draft their cover letter in line with other applications from UCL**. We may also notify other applicants of the focus of your application and alert you to any that are similar thematically to allow you to coordinate with these, if appropriate.

**Summary of the call**

* Principal investigators and co-investigators must be at lecturer level (or equivalent) or above and meet the standard UKRI eligibility criteria.
* The project’s full economic cost can be up to £1,875,000. UKRI will fund 80% of the full economic cost.
* Projects can be up to 24 months and you must start your project no later than 31 January 2022.
* New collaborations between and across institutions are strongly encouraged, as well as collaborations with private sector partners. However, please note that businesses cannot be funded through this opportunity. The nature of the collaboration and the role of the industrial partner should be made clear in the case for support.
* Applications are encouraged from investigators that may not consider themselves to have a track record in engineering biology, such as individuals from other disciplines that are looking to explore the potential impact of engineering biology across disciplines.
* Transition awards will enable both the creation of communities, towards new and novel research activities, and the support for existing research communities, by taking current expertise and impact and driving it further through research development and commercial partnership.
* Applicants are encouraged from disciplines and communities seeking to drive cutting-edge fundamental engineering biology ideas and opportunities, or providing additional systems expertise, that can pull-through into impacts in key sectors, for example:
  + clinical
  + manufacturing
  + environmental
  + agricultural
* It is anticipated that successful grants will help deliver the aims of this opportunity, to:
  + support discovery and application inspired research and innovation activities and community development, further facilitating multi and interdisciplinary working aligned with the themes of the proposed National Engineering Biology Programme
  + maintain capability and capacity in the UK, by establishing community collaborations both new and through enhancing existing centres of excellence to further develop activities and undergo a step-change
  + build on existing expertise and fundamental research to drive impact through translation and commercial partnership, depending on the research area.
* It should be clear within the application, the link with engineering biology and how UK engineering biology communities and capabilities will benefit from the delivery of this proposal.

Further information on the call and how to apply at the call page here <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/engineering-biology-research-community-and-capacity-development/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery>

Please contact [slms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:slms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk) with any questions about this call.