

GUIDELINES FOR APPLYING FOR COSYST FUNDING

OBJECTIVES

Aim

The BBSRC Collaborative Scheme for Systematics Research is designed to provide short-term funding for collaborative research in systematics. The initiative is intended to support preliminary collaborative research that will form the basis of novel responsive mode proposals with a substantial systematics component. All applicants must be of at least senior Post-Doctoral status although resources may be sought to support existing junior Post-Doctoral Research Assistants, technical and support staff or Post-Graduate Students during laboratory exchanges, sample acquisition and the generation of preliminary data.

Long-Term Objectives

- To stimulate a greater quantity and better quality of systematics-related research proposals submitted to the UK's Research Councils.
- To firmly establish systematic biology within the UK's biological research base.

Short-Term Objectives

- To attract a minimum of 20 applications to the BBSRC Collaborative Scheme for Systematics Research each year.
- Distribution of the awards will result in at least 25% of the projects being used to generate a full responsive mode application to either BBSRC or NERC within two years of the grant being awarded.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applications to the BBSRC Collaborative Scheme for Systematics Research will involve at least two UK-based researchers.
- Researchers from the same Institution should be from different scientific disciplines and/or departments (as evidenced by publication record);
- Collaborations involving non-UK-based partners are not eligible for this scheme.
- All applicants must be of at least Senior Post-Doctoral status. One researcher will be nominated as the Administrative Lead for the project.
- The Administrative Lead will be in full-time academic employment within the UK and be eligible to hold a Research Council grant.
- At least one researcher will be an established systematist or phylogeneticist (as evidenced by publication record); this can be either the academic lead or a collaborating partner. Please note that although this scheme is designed to encourage collaborations between systematists and non-systematists, this scheme does not exclude collaborations where all parties are established researchers within the fields of systematics and taxonomy.
- The scheme is designed primarily to encourage collaborations. Therefore applications will not be considered from researchers who have previously been jointly in receipt of a CoSyst grant.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- The proposal must be excellent science and offer a high probability both of the applicant submitting a responsive mode proposal to a UK Research Council within two years of receiving the grant and of a publication arising from the research.
- The collaboration must be for proposing research that is within the remit of the BBSRC or the NERC.
- Eligible costs include directly incurred costs associated with acquisition of preliminary data. These may include consumables, travel and subsistence, contribution to equipment charges, purchase of small items of equipment and provision of computing facilities and/or licences. Other eligible costs include travel and subsistence associated with laboratory exchanges. Please note that this scheme does not support salary costs, or requests for funds to attend conferences and workshops.
- Grants will be in the range £2–20k, with an indicative range of £5–10k. The sum requested should be for the amounts required to perform the project and all requests should be fully justified on the proforma.

THE APPLICATION FORM

- Only electronic applications are accepted. Electronic application forms are available at the awards pages of the Systematics Association <http://www.systass.org/> and Linnean Society <http://www.linnean.org/>
- Applicants clicking on a field in the online form will see a text box with further guidance of the form's requirements.
- In the *Details of proposed project* field, applicants should upload a single document no more than THREE A4 pages in length. The document can be in Word or pdf format.
- The document should include no more than two full pages of text, though a third page can be used to include figures and/or tables. The project proposal must include the following project details: background, aims, methods and justification for the importance of the work.
- Closing date for applications for round three: 15th March.

Enquiries to CoSyst2009@googlemail.com