

Guidelines for applying for CoSyst funding

(A) Objectives

Aim

The BBSRC Collaborative Scheme for Systematics Research is designed to provide short-term funding for new 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

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

Short-Term Objectives

- (1) To attract a minimum of 20 applications to the BBSRC Collaborative Scheme for Systematics Research each year.
- (2) 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.

(B) Eligibility

- (1) 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; see section D1 of this document). Collaborations involving non-UK-based partners are not eligible for this scheme.
- (2) All applicants must be of at least Senior Post-Doctoral status. One researcher will be nominated as the Administrative Lead for the project.
- (3) The Administrative Lead will be in full-time academic employment within the UK and be eligible to hold a Research Council grant.
- (4) At least one researcher will be an established systematist or phylogeneticist (as evidenced by publication record; see section D1 of this document). 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.

(5) The scheme is designed primarily to encourage new collaborations. Therefore applications will not be considered from researchers who have previously collaborated, unless their previous collaborative work did not involve a substantial systematics component (the application form includes a tick-box where applicants confirm they have not previously been in receipt of a joint Research Council grant; this is taken as indicative of a new collaboration).

(C) Selection Criteria

(1) The proposal must offer a high probability of the applicants submitting a responsive mode proposal to a UK Research Council within two years of receiving the grant. Collaborations are particularly welcomed for proposed hypothesis-testing studies of comparative systematic biology.

(2) The collaboration must be for proposing research that is within the remit of the BBSRC or the NERC.

(3) Eligible costs include costs associated with acquisition of preliminary data. These may include consumables, 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.

(4) 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.

(D) The application form

(1) Only electronic applications are accepted. Electronic application forms are available at the awards pages of the Systematics Association <http://www.systass.org/> and the Linnean Society <http://www.linnean.org/>

(2) Applicants clicking on a field in the online form will see a text box with further guidance of the form's requirements.

(3) 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. Project milestones, outputs (which might include a responsive mode proposal to a Research Council) and breakdown of costs must also be indicated. If

applying for travel and subsistence please indicate in the breakdown of costs who will be travelling and the duration of the exchange.

(4) Applicants should use the Publications field to provide full citations for the four most significant publications authored by either applicant. At least two of these should demonstrate an established research programme in the field of systematics. If the lead applicant and the collaborating partner are from the same department within an institution the publications should be selected to provide evidence that the applicants are expert in different scientific fields.

(5) In the Reviewers field applicants are asked to provide details of two reviewers. This should include the reviewers' names, addresses, whether the reviewer knows the applicant and if so in what capacity, the addresses of the reviewers' homepages if any and the reviewers' telephone number and email. These referees need not be able to comment on the work of the applicants, but should be able to comment on the quality of the proposal

(6) A statement of support from the Administrative Lead's Head of Department must be uploaded in the Statement of support from head of institution field. This document should be on departmental paper and include a scanned original signature.

(7) The closing date for the first round of applications is 31st January 2007
Any enquiries should be directed to CoSyst@googlemail.com