

[Front page](#)

## **BBSRC Forward Look 2024: Community Consultation**

**Opens:** 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024  
**Closes:** 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**Contact:** [forwardlook@bbsrc.ukri.org](mailto:forwardlook@bbsrc.ukri.org)

[Front page](#)

## **BBSRC Forward Look for UK Bioscience: Community Consultation 2024**

**Opens:** 25 July 2024  
**Closes:** 20 September 2024  
**Contact:** [forwardlook@bbsrc.ukri.org](mailto:forwardlook@bbsrc.ukri.org)

In 2018, BBSRC published its first ever [Forward Look for UK bioscience](#).

Scoped and developed in collaboration with our community and stakeholders, the Forward Look has served as a crucial framework for BBSRC, guiding our strategic direction, actions and investments. It also underpins our [strategic delivery plan 2022-2025](#) while providing a robust foundation for our input into Government Spending Reviews.

Since publishing our Forward Look six years ago, UKRI has launched its first ever five-year strategy, [transforming tomorrow together](#). The strategy sets out a series of long-term, high-level priorities designed to deliver an outstanding research and innovation system in the UK. During this time, there have been wide-ranging scientific and technological advances along with political and socioeconomic changes that impact how we support, deliver, and translate bioscience research.

### **Supporting the UK's long-term growth**

The UK government has set out a clear mission for long-term economic growth and the bioscience ecosystem will be pivotal in delivering this.

Bioscience research and innovation lies at the heart of sustained economic growth, job creation and productivity, playing a fundamental role in supporting progress across diverse industries and harnessing technological transformation for the benefit of economy and society alike.

As the UK's major public funder of bioscience research and innovation, BBSRC is committed to supporting bioscience to help further our understanding of the world in which we live, leveraging its power to address critical challenges on a global scale.

### **Looking forward**

It's time to review our Forward Look for UK Bioscience and we welcome your support and input.

UK bioscience is a vibrant and diverse ecosystem comprising a wealth of roles, skills, ideas and expertise.

We're seeking the views and input of the entire community to make sure our Forward Look continues to represent and reflect your views, priorities and values.

Through consultation, we will deepen our understanding of the current drivers of bioscience research and innovation. We want to better understand shifts in focus for our stakeholders and test our thinking regarding BBSRC's role as a funder, connector and trusted strategic partner.

Our goal is to deliver a refreshed Forward Look that is developed with our stakeholders, for our stakeholders.

We will build on existing insight drawn from our horizon scanning activities. These include the Bioscience Big Ideas Pipeline, a wide range of stakeholder and partner engagements, analysis of our funding portfolio as well as:

- [BBSRC Futures Workshop and community consultation 2023 report](#)
- Advice from: [BBSRC Council](#),  
[BBSRC Strategy Advisory Panels](#)  
[BBSRC Committees and Pool of Experts](#)

## **Why your views matter**

Your insight will help us better understand how we can build a strategy that will enable bioscience to thrive while contributing significantly to scientific advancement, economic growth and improved quality of life in the UK and beyond.

We want to hear from anyone who forms part of our community, whether you work in research and innovation or are a business owner, a policy professional, a public engagement specialist, an end user of bioscience or an interested member of the public.

We will analyse the survey results, working in collaboration with our Strategy Advisory Panels and Council.

We aim to publish our refreshed Forward Look for UK Bioscience in 2025.

If you'd like to know when the document is published, please include your contact details and we'll make sure you're notified you when the Forward Look goes live.

[Submit your views link](#) (links to page 2 below)

---

## **Page 2**

### **BBSRC Forward Look for UK Bioscience 2024: About You or Your Group or Organisation**

Through this survey, we hope to gain input from a broad a range of stakeholders. We are asking a small number of questions about you, your role, and your sector to better understand the context of what we have heard and from whom, and to help us ensure we capture insight from as many interested parties as possible.

## GDPR Statement

All personal data provided to BBSRC (as part of UK Research and Innovation) in connection to BBSRC's Forward Look for UK Bioscience 2024: Community Consultation and submitted in the survey form will be processed in accordance with current UK data protection legislation and the EU General Data Protection Regulations 2016/679 (GDPR) where appropriate.

The personal information that you provide on this form will only be used to build understanding of stakeholder groups responding to the consultation in order to ensure that BBSRC receives a broad range of views from relevant communities, disciplines, and bioscience careers and to provide context to responses. The information will be viewed by BBSRC and UKRI staff and those who are part of the review process. If you provide contact information, BBSRC may use this to contact you further about the refresh of its Forward Look.

Further information on how we use personal data, and how you can exercise your rights as a data subject, can be found on this page: [UKRI Privacy Notice](#).

- About You: Are you making this return as an individual or on behalf of a group or organisation? Select individual or group.
- About You: If responding "group" to the above question, please tell us on behalf of what group or organisation you are responding. You will now be directed to the survey, page 3 below. *Free text up to 500 characters.*
- About You: In what type of organisation do you work? Select from drop down menu.
- About You: In what field or discipline do you work? Select from drop down menus.
- About You: What best describes your role or area in which you work? Select from drop down menus.
- About you: If you work in research and innovation: Please tell us your career stage. Select from drop down menus.
- Optional About You: Please tell us your name and e-mail address  
If you would be happy for us to contact you further about your responses or this work, please provide your name and e-mail address.

Bioscience is a pervasive force that drives insights and innovation to address some of the most pressing challenges of our time.

Through our existing horizon scanning activities, our stakeholders have reconfirmed its power to underpin advances in health, wellbeing and medicine; sustainable food systems; addressing and mitigating against climate change; environmental conservation and the protection of biodiversity; and biomaterials and alternative energy sources, contributing to a more sustainable future. We appreciate that bioscience's interdisciplinary nature transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries and have noted your feedback on the need for skills, connectivity, and influence to enable this.

Through the following questions, we hope to gain deeper insight into our stakeholder's views. We want to understand what has changed since the publication of our current Forward Look and how we might evolve to ensure that UK bioscience continues to advance and thrive.

Please feel free to answer all or a sub-section of the questions that are relevant to you.

#### **Understanding priorities for research and innovation:**

- Reflecting on BBSRC's current Forward Look, [our remit](#), and the changes that have occurred since their publication: to what extent are the priorities still relevant for the next 5 to 10 years? Please provide information to explain your views.  
*Free text limited to 3000 characters.*
- What, if any, other priorities should BBSRC consider when developing the Forward Look for UK bioscience?  
*Free text limited to 3000 characters.*
- Is there any breakthrough (for example technological, new approaches, or new knowledge) that could enable significant progress in addressing grand challenges or enable a step-change in bioscience?  
*Free text limited to 3000 characters.*
- What key issues, barriers or blockers need to be addressed?  
*Free text limited to 3000 characters.*

---

#### **Page 4**

Please feel free to answer all or a sub-section of the questions that are relevant to you.

#### **Understanding how we can help deliver excellent bioscience and impacts:**

- What do you or your discipline or sector look to BBSRC to provide, support, or do? Is BBSRC unique in any of these roles?  
*Free text limited to 3000 characters.*

- We have heard from you of the need to increase connectivity and partnerships to enable progress and impact. What partnerships do you consider to be important and why? What do you consider to be BBSRC's role in connecting and partnering?

*Free text limited to 3000 characters.*

- What change to the research and innovation system would make the biggest positive difference?

*Free text limited to 3000 characters.*

---