
UK Functional Genomics Capability Build

Call for project proposals: Frequently Asked Questions

1. In addition to funding, what is GSK bringing to the table?

GSK brings an exceptionally rich genomics data and analysis environment and field leading expertise in the use of such data in drug discovery. Most importantly these projects will allow academic applicants an immersive learning experience in the translation of genomics findings to the development of medicines.

Note that shortlisted applicants will be matched with a GSK partner to further work up the project proposal for presentation to the Joint Steering Committee (decision making body). During work up additional discussion may take place with regard to access to GSK capabilities that might complement and add value to the project.

2. Is there the possibility to connect the proposal to one of the existing GSK external partnerships?

Such proposals will be considered on a case by case basis.

3. Is there an opportunity to leverage any of GSK's data from the UK Bio Bank or 23andMe?

Such proposals will be considered on a case by case basis.

4. Could the funding include additional FTE or multiple post-docs?

The funding available is for one post-doctoral appointment in the first instance. Applicants are encouraged to seek opportunities to leverage additional funding, including GSK supported mechanisms to maximise the impact of the project. It is recognised that a small percentage of the lead PI's time may need to be included in the budget.

5. What is GSK's approach to IP and publication as part of the funding?

The terms that govern any collaboration will be consistent with those applied in collaborations with GSK in recent years and shall include the right of the University to use the results for academic teaching and research, including publication, in addition to terms relating to the ownership of IP.

6. Is the call for proposals focusing on new technology development? Or application to generate new data? Or both?

Both

7. Will there be an expectation of, or opportunity to, connect with GSK scientists during the course of the project for research in common areas as well as generally for scientific engagement etc

Collaboration is central to the call. Initial EoI applications will be reviewed by a GSK panel and successful applicants will be matched with a GSK partner to help in further shaping the proposal to align with the key principles of the call.

The GSK partner will work with the applicant ahead of the JSC presentation and will form part of the team in order to ensure that both parties maximise the opportunity for collaboration.

8. How do I access UK Life Sciences Infrastructure in collaboration with an Industry partner?

Applicants should work out costing and access issues to the best of their ability at this stage and cost the proposal as fully as possible – final details can be worked out afterwards. Note that ideas may evolve from EoI to final submission.

9. What are my chances of success?

This is an open call and therefore it is not possible to anticipate the level of response. This is one reason why the initial stage of application is restricted to a brief EoI. Once shortlisted applicants will be matched with a GSK partner to work up a more detailed proposal to be presented to the Joint Steering Committee. We anticipate that between 25% and 50% of proposals presented to the JSC will be successful in terms of receiving funding associated with this call. However, based on experience from previous similar calls we anticipate that all shortlisted applicants will gain benefit from participating in terms of connecting and building relationships with GSK scientists, engaging in scientific discussion and potentially paving the way for collaboration outside of this specific call mechanism.