

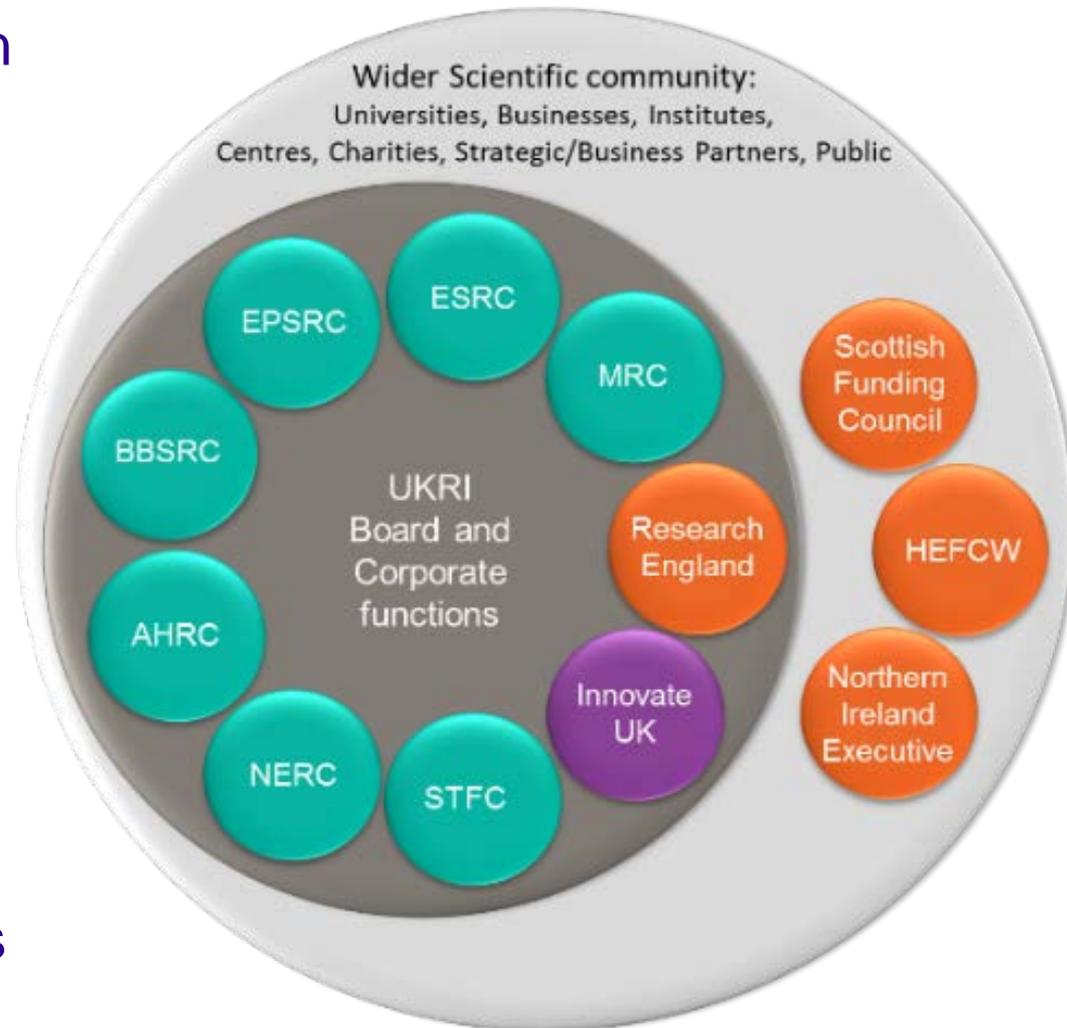
Beyond the lab: Working for a Stakeholder

Dr Colin Miles



What is UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) ?

- UK Research and Innovation launched in April 2018.
- UKRI is the new funding organisation for research and innovation in the UK.
- UKRI comprises seven UK research councils, Innovate UK and a new organisation, Research England, working closely with its partners in the devolved administrations



What does BBSRC do ?

Invests in **world-class bioscience research** in UK Universities & Institutes

Invests in **bioscience training & skills** for the next generation of bioscientists

Drives the widest possible **social & economic impact** from our bioscience

Promotes **public dialogue** on bioscience

BBSRC current scientific strategy

Three major strategic science priorities (Grand Challenges)



Food Security



Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy



Bioscience for Health

Three crucial enabling themes



KE, Innovation and Skills



Exploiting New Ways of Working



Partnerships

Working for a Stakeholder: BBSRC

Main areas of work:

- Grants and the peer review process.
- Scientific strategy and the innovation process.
- Science policy.
- Professional services: finance, estates management and human resources.

Grants and the peer review process: what's involved?

- Conducted as a “grants round” with a batch of proposals.
- Staff work in teams to conduct peer review.
- Computer-based system to manage proposals and use of external referees.
- Concludes with a meeting with peers to score and rank proposals for funding.
- Decisions made on who gets a grant; feedback for those who do not.



Grants and the peer review process: what would I get to do?

- Ensure applications are eligible in terms of scientific content.
- Select external reviewers and ensure appropriate reviews had been made.
- Manage the process for c.100 proposals per committee or panel, three times per year.
- Preparing for and participating in peer review meetings and keeping a record of committee/panel decisions.
- Supporting both responsive and managed programme activities in selected scientific areas.

Grants and the peer review process: what skills are required?

- Careful time management and planning: it can be hard work!
- Attention to detail: following protocols especially for finance.
- Good interpersonal skills and team working.
- Ability to work and interact successfully with members of the community (academic, business, government and 3rd sector).



Scientific strategy and the innovation process: What's involved?

- Working in strategic areas.
- Understanding the specific role of BBSRC and how it applies to the area.
- Understanding the grant portfolio.
- Working with the academic/business/government/ 3rd sector to examine current trends and how BBSRC should respond.
- Identifying mechanism through which to develop strategic areas in the future (alone or in partnership).
- Working with grants teams to deliver new areas through managed and responsive programmes.

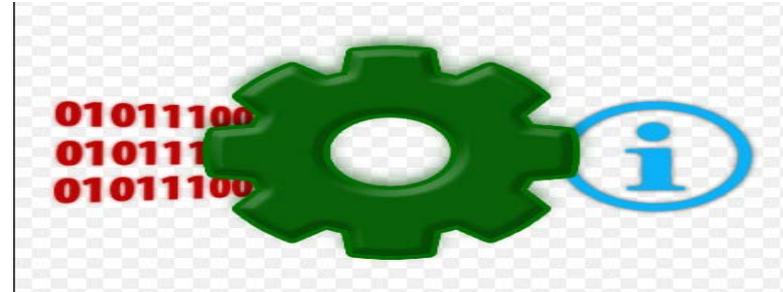


Scientific strategy and the innovation process: what would I get to do?

- Review the relevant parts of the BBSRC grant portfolio.
- Work with other stakeholders to co-ordinate supporting the scientific area.
- Working with members of the community to identify the next steps to develop the area.
- Identify and implement mechanisms to support grants and monitor their progress and outcomes.
- Increasingly this is being undertaken in an international context.

Scientific strategy and the innovation process: what skills are required?

- Interpreting large quantities of grants data.
- Identifying patterns of grant support and often the “missing” pieces.
- Working with the scientific, business, government and 3rd sector communities and being prepared for working with ambiguities and uncertainty.
- Working with different teams to identify ways of supporting new scientific developments, often internationally.
- Being patient while the research is undertaken and looking for the outcomes and how they might be better exploited.



Beyond the lab: Working for a Stakeholder



Science policy: what's involved?

- Developing BBSRC's strategic position for future government investment.
- Presenting data on BBSRC grants and training and using this to inform future scientific strategy.
- BBSRC policy position on issues of concern: eg genetic modification, gene editing, synthetic biology.
- Government-based scientific enquiries: preparing evidence for eg select committee reports

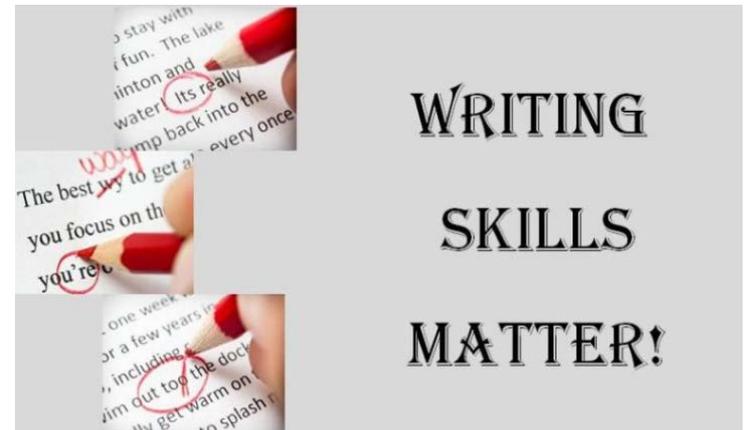


Science policy: what would I get to do?

- Help prepare BBSRC's strategic plans and plans on how it will spend its funding allocation, based on past and future trends.
- Undertake consultations in the community on the BBSRC position on issues of concern and prepare reports for publication.
- Prepare data and reports to address questions raised in government-based enquiries from a BBSRC perspective.

Science policy: what skills are involved?

- Data analysis and interpretation.
- Representing how BBSRC supports science at a corporate level across all of its programmes: “Big Picture” view.
- Working with the community to prepare reports on issues of sensitivity :good drafting skills.
- Working with teams across the office to collect data and prepare reports that accurately reflect BBSRC’s position in respect of government enquiries.



Beyond the lab: Working for a Stakeholder

