

# **Bristol Next Generation Visiting Researchers Programme**

## **Call specification, Autumn 2021 call**

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## **Call details**

### **Purpose**

This scheme has been designed to support the next generation of research, helping to enhance the University of Bristol's reputation as a centre for research excellence and innovation. 'Next Generation' has a dual meaning: this scheme can support researchers at any stage – including Distinguished Visiting Professors – to undertake blue skies research projects, exploring exciting, innovative new research spaces; however, it also opens the door for future research leaders who are less senior in their careers but have shown great potential.

'Next Generation' awards are for placements of up to six weeks, during which the Visiting Researcher will undertake world-leading, curiosity-driven research in partnership with University of Bristol (UoB) academics. A visit to the UoB will encourage long-lasting international collaborations, with research outputs being one key indicator of success. We also hope that Visiting Researchers will be open to working with UoB's existing global network partnerships and to participating in funding bids. In addition to working with their host and host department colleagues, Visiting Researchers will have opportunities to work with research-active UoB members at all levels, from postgraduate to emeriti, and they will have the chance to schedule a suite of internal and public-facing activities, from consultations and masterclasses to workshops, public lectures and performances.

### **Eligibility**

#### **University of Bristol Academic Hosts**

All Next Generation Visiting Researchers are required to have a UoB Academic Host, and in turn these hosts must secure written approval from their Head of School or Department prior to submitting their application.

UoB Academic Hosts can be based in any school, department or faculty, and can be on any academic pathway (i.e. Pathway 1, 2 or 3). UoB hosts must be officially registered as an academic member of staff at the University of Bristol for the full duration of the proposed visit and would be expected to be in Bristol for the majority of the visitation period in order to effectively engage and collaborate with their Visiting Researcher.

We would expect UoB Academic Hosts to be well established in their fields, and would usually be at Professorial level; however, UoB Hosts who are 'rising stars' themselves can also apply. For 'Next Generation' awards we would encourage applicants to consider a 'mentorship' approach for applications, whereby the UoB host could be a more senior researcher – where appropriate – to help maximise the success and outcomes of the international visit. Visitors and Hosts who are at equivalent career stages are, however, also very welcome to apply to this scheme.

#### **Visiting Researchers**

Visiting Researchers can be from any recognised research organisation outside of the United Kingdom. As with UoB Academic Hosts they can be from any disciplinary field, and on any academic development pathway.

Visiting Researchers should be recognised experts in their research fields. Whilst we anticipate that many applicants to this scheme will be distinguished Professors, we also welcome applications from rising stars who have demonstrable potential to become the next generation of research leaders. Applications will be reviewed by a panel of academics against the assessment criteria below, and applicants will therefore be required to provide sufficient evidence of the visitor's academic calibre and their potential for delivering research excellence in collaboration with their UoB Academic Host(s). Evidence will be provided via the Case for Support in the application form, as well as a CV attachment (no more than two sides A4). This evidence could include, for example:

- A track record of high-profile peer-reviewed publications.
- Leading a major project/projects as the Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-PI.
- Invitations to speak at high-profile events, such as keynote presentations at international conferences.
- A growing reputation for originality and significance of research and/or educational contributions.
- Receiving an accolade or award in recognition of innovation and/or excellence in research and/or educational development.
- Equivalent experience, achievements and/or professional merit.

We recognise that evidence of research and/or educational excellence can look different in different scholarly and disciplinary fields, and the Academic Review Panel will be instructed to factor this into their assessments. The Panel will consist of representatives from all Faculties, as well as all three Pathways.

## **Practicalities**

This scheme has three deadlines per year. The next deadline is **7 January 2022**.

Applicants can request visitation periods of **up to six weeks**. Applications to the January 2022 deadline are for visits planned to commence after April 2022 and to complete by July 2023. In the event of further COVID-19 outbreaks and associated restrictions we may be able to postpone visits beyond this timeframe. This will be subject to a number of factors, including availability of funding, and will be discussed with successful award-holders on a case-by-case basis.

**Accommodation will be provided** to all successful applicants, and where possible this will be in one of our suites in [Principal's House](#) on the main University precinct. During peak periods we may need to arrange alternative accommodation for you in central Bristol. **Please note that we are not able to cover costs for a government-mandated quarantine hotel**, so we cannot currently accept Visitors from a 'red list' country unless the applicants are able to secure alternative funding to cover these costs. Applicants from these countries are welcome to apply, but the completion of their visit will be subject to either alternative funding being secured or the easing of restrictions within the specified timeframe.

Applicants can apply for funding to cover **economy return travel** from the Visting Researcher's home country to Bristol. Funding can only be requested for one return trip per award; if the Visitor chooses to make more than one trip, they will need to secure alternative sources of funding to cover the additional costs. All Visitors are required to have an **appropriate travel insurance** policy in place as soon as their visit dates are confirmed. This



policy must include appropriate COVID-19 cover, including cancellation cover and cover for accommodation and associated costs if return travel home is delayed due to travel restrictions and/or border closures as a result of COVID-19 outbreaks. Applicants can apply for funding to cover any mandatory COVID-19 testing requirements for their travel, where applicable. Applicants can also apply for **up to £175 per week** (£25 per day) for subsistence costs and living expenses incurred whilst resident in Bristol.

## **How to apply**

### **Application process**

1. Identify a partnership opportunity between a UoB Academic Host and a suitable international academic.
2. Familiarise yourself with all sections of this document before commencing your application, paying particular attention to the criteria and conditions of award.
3. Complete the Bristol Next Generation Application Form 2021-22, available on the [Next Generation webpage](#), and submit to the UoB Academic Host's Head of School or Department for approval.
4. Submit a PDF copy of the completed form via email to [irp-admin@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:irp-admin@bristol.ac.uk), along with a CV each (maximum 2 sides A4) for the UoB Academic Host and Next Generation Visiting Researcher. Please ensure that you submit your application before the relevant deadline.
5. Your application will then be assessed by the Bristol International Research Partnerships Academic Review Panel, Chaired by Provost Professor Judith Squires.
6. Funding decisions, including any conditions of funding, will then be confirmed. We aim to communicate outcomes to all applicants within six weeks of the call deadline.
7. If your application is successful further information will be provided on the next steps. If your application is unsuccessful, you will be provided with feedback from the panel, and we may be able to discuss a resubmission in some cases.

If you have any questions regarding this process, or any other aspects of applying for a Bristol Next Generation Visiting Researcher award, please get in touch with Sam Barlow via [irp-admin@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:irp-admin@bristol.ac.uk).

### **Guidance for applicants**

Please strictly note and adhere to all of the below guidance, as well as the guidance provided at the top of the application form, available on the [Next Generation webpage](#). Applications which are not compliant will be considered ineligible.

#### **Section A**

In this section you need to provide details of the proposed partnership visit, including the project title and details of both the Next Generation Visiting Researcher and the UoB Academic Host. Please adhere to the italicised grey guidance notes in the form.

The length of visit can be a between 1-6 weeks, and the earliest start date should be no earlier than 1 April 2022. All visits should be completed no later than 31 July 2023.

## Section B

The Academic Review Panel will be assessing your application primarily based on this section, so we strongly recommend you pay particular attention to this section and anticipate that it would comprise the main portion of the application. **Please ensure that the application is written in language that is accessible for non-specialists**, as it may be reviewed by panel members from a different disciplinary field.

The Case for Support should include information and evidence relating to:

- The track record of the proposed Next Generation Visiting Researcher, including evidence of excellence in research and/or educational developments, and/or the Visitor's potential to become a future research leader in their field.
- The importance of the proposed project and partnership to development and advancement of the relevant academic field(s).
- The identified synergies between the UoB Academic Host and Visitor, and the potential for developing a meaningful and beneficial partnership between both individuals and institutions.
- The likelihood of significant outcomes arising from the visit, including development of novel approaches, concepts and/or methodologies, identifying new spaces for viable collaborative research, high-quality external funding bids, co-authored publications, and/or other potential long-term benefits for both the UoB and the partner institution.
- The added value and interest of the visit to a range of UoB researchers, including post-graduates (c.f. the below table).
- The potential for the proposed visit and associated activities to attract further external engagement, such as engagement from policy and practice, the media, and/or other sectors.

In the second part of Section B you are required to complete a table outlining your plans for engagement during the visit, in line with the scheme requirements for Bristol Next Generation Visiting Researchers to contribute to the wider research culture of the University by offering at least one open lecture/seminar. In addition, we expect all Visitors to offer at least one departmental lecture and at least one graduate student seminar during their visit. All applicants therefore need to complete this table. Some examples have been provided below. Please note you can add as many additional rows as required. Please do not exceed the word limits.

Lectures and seminars		
Title	Key audience	Synopsis
<i>Social and environmental dimensions of mountain poverty</i>	Open seminar	Professor Smith will introduce the physical characteristics of mountains that make reducing poverty in mountain communities difficult, as well as exploring the particular social and environmental challenges associated with living in mountain environments and how these can be interlinked with poverty in its multiple dimensions. This activity is intended to appeal to a multidisciplinary audience and will be open to all schools and faculties.

Lectures and seminars		
Title	Key audience	Synopsis
<i>What does 'impact' mean for poverty research</i>	Postgraduate lecture	Professor Smith will provide postgraduate students with an introduction to the concept of 'impact' in social sciences, leading into a more specific exploration of impact for poverty research. The lecture will explore the methods, approaches and challenges of impactful poverty research, and teach postgraduate students some key considerations to build into future poverty-related projects. There will be an opportunity for Q&A.

### Section C

Applicants should complete this section with itemised costs in GBP. A FEC costing is not required.

**A: Travel Costs:** The Bristol Next Generation Visiting Researcher Programme includes economy return travel to and from Bristol for the Visitor, in line with the [UoB Travel, Subsistence and Expenses policy](#). An itemised breakdown must be provided. Please note that only one return trip can be funded through this scheme. Please also include the costs of your travel insurance policy, which is a requirement for all Visitors. You can also include costs of mandatory COVID-19 testing where required for travel, if applicable.

**B: Subsistence costs:** The Bristol Next Generation Visiting Research Programme covers up to £175 of reasonable subsistence costs per week (£25 per day) of the official visit duration. Details should be provided (i.e. how many days/weeks are being claimed for).

**C: Faculty/School/Departmental Contribution:** Where some of the costs of the visit are being funded by the Faculty/School/Department details of this should be outlined in this section, including a summary of the contribution and the financial value.

Applicants should calculate the total cost of the visit (i.e. A+B), and then deduct the Faculty/School/Department Contribution (i.e. A+B, then subtract C) to give the total amount being applied for via the Bristol Next Generation Visiting Researcher Programme. An example has been provided below:

Costs applied for			
Item	Breakdown	Value (GBP)	
A	Travel costs	Return economy flights New York-London (£600) Taxi to/from airport in New York (£60) Return bus from London to Bristol (£50) Travel insurance including COVID-19 cover (£60)	£770
B	Subsistence costs	Daily subsistence (£25/day for 48 days)	£1200
C	Faculty/School/Department Contribution	Advanced Computing Research Centre (in Engineering) have agreed to cover costs of the flight	£600
	Total cost of visit (A+B)		£1970
	<b>Total applied for via Bristol Next Generation Visiting Researcher Programme (A+B-C)</b>		<b>£1370</b>



Applicants should also provide details of any other applications being made for funding in connection with this visit in the final part of Section C, including both internal and external funding sources. If no other applications are being made, then please enter 'N/A' in this box.

### **Section D**

This section must be completed by the UoB Academic Host's Head of School. By providing their signature, the Head of School agrees to all terms outlined in the declaration.

The Head of School is also welcomed to add any further comments on the application (maximum 200 words). For example, they may wish to add further comments on the value of the Bristol Next Generation Visiting Researcher for the Department/School and/or the UoB more generally, substantiating and supporting information provided in the Case for Support. This is an optional field.

### **Assessment criteria**

Applications to the Next Generation Visiting Researcher programme will be reviewed by a panel of leading academics from the University of Bristol, chaired by the Provost Professor Judith Squires. For information on the current panel membership [please click here](#).

The panel will review applications against the following criteria:

- Is the proposed Visiting Researcher:
  - A distinguished Professor with a proven track record of excellent research and/or educational development; and/or
  - A future research leader, with demonstrable experience of research or educational innovation and/or academic recognition?
- Does the proposed project have ambitious objectives and demonstrable importance to the relevant academic field, with potential to breach new frontiers of research?
- Are the proposed project and the identified synergies between the UoB Academic Host and Visiting Researcher clearly defined, with strong potential for developing a meaningful and beneficial partnership?
- Is there a strong likelihood of significant outcomes arising from the visit, including high-quality external funding bids, co-authored publications, ongoing collaborations, and/or other potential long-term benefits for UoB and the partner institution?
- Will the proposed visit be of interest to a range of UoB researchers, including post-graduates?
- Will the proposed visit and associated activities attract further external engagement, such as engagement from policy and practice, the media, or other sectors?

Applications will be scored against a six-point scale:

Assessment	Score
An outstanding application which fully meets all criteria and is very likely to increase the UoB's international profile through excellent research, collaboration and high-profile co-authored publications.	6
An excellent application which meets the criteria and has strong potential to increase the UoB's international profile through excellent research, collaboration and high-profile co-authored publications.	5
A good application which generally addresses the criteria well and has demonstrable potential to increase the UoB's international profile through excellent research, collaboration and high-profile co-authored publications.	4
A reasonable application which addresses most of the criteria and has potential to increase the UoB's international research profile, but would need strengthening in order to be funded.	3
A poor application which has some merits, but which fails to adequately address the assessment criteria and should therefore not be funded.	2
A weak application which does not meet the criteria and should not be funded.	1

## Conditions of funding

### Pre-Award Requirements

All successful applications will be required to submit the following information to the International Research Partnerships team **within four weeks of award outcome notification** or **before their travel to Bristol is arranged**, whichever is sooner:

- 300-word profile of the Next Generation Visiting Researcher for our website and other communications; and
- 300-word summary of the collaborative project between the Visiting Researcher and their UoB host for our website and other communications.

Please [visit our website](#) or contact [irp-admin@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:irp-admin@bristol.ac.uk) for examples.

It is the UoB Academic Host's responsibility to ensure that this information is delivered on time. The International Research Partnerships team **reserve the right to cancel awards if this information is not received within the specified timeframe**. We recommend that you prepare this information as part of your application process, to assist with timely processing of your award.

The host's department/school will need to arrange for [honorary visiting staff status](#) prior to the Visitor's arrival, this will enable a UCard and a UoB email to be generated.

### Award Requirements and Conditions

All applicants should familiarise themselves with the below requirements and conditions of funding, which apply to all awards under this scheme.

- Where visitors have Professorship status in their home institution, they will be given the title of Bristol Visiting Professors for the duration of their stay. Visitors at all other career stages will have the title of Bristol Next Generation Visiting Researchers.





Visitors should be referred to as such in all publicity related to the visit, including event promotion.

- Collectively all award holders under this scheme will be referred to as Bristol Next Generation Visiting Researchers.
- All Visitors are expected to give lectures/talks to relevant audiences during their visit beyond their immediate specialist collaborators. It is the responsibility of the UoB Academic Host to arrange these talks, including booking the venue, and to ensure that the scheme is appropriately accredited in the event title, e.g. "*Bristol Next Generation Visiting Researchers Programme Public Lecture*". We are also keen for our postgraduate community to benefit and learn from the Visitor's expertise, for example through seminars or 'master classes'. We do have facilities to support virtual seminars, where appropriate, to help expand international reach.
- Details of all events and activities taking part during the visit must be provided to the International Research Partnerships team for our records and to enable us to assist with promotion.
- Visitors and/or their UoB hosts are expected to produce a post for the University of Bristol International Research Partnerships blog either during or after the visit. This can be on any topic related to the visit, from reporting academic developments achieved through the partnership visit to more informal reflections on the benefits of international partnerships.
- Applications to this scheme will not be considered solely for the purposes of conference attendance; however, conference attendance and delivery can legitimately form part of a rather larger programme of activities with UoB staff and students.
- All awards are made on the basis of single continuous visits, with no provision for partners or children, or additional travel whilst based in Bristol.
- The UoB Academic Host's school/faculty is expected to provide suitable space for the Visitor to work during their time in Bristol.
- All insurance and visa requirements are the responsibility of the Visitor and/or UoB Host School. Please refer to the [UK government website](#) for more details on visa requirements.
- It is the Visitor's responsibility to ensure that appropriate travel insurance, including COVID-19 cancellation and travel delay cover, is in place as soon as possible once the dates of travel are confirmed. This is to ensure that the policy can be drawn upon if the visit needs to be postponed or cancelled due to COVID-19.
- It is the responsibility of the Visitor and UoB Academic Host to ensure that the proposed visit is compliant with all COVID-19 policies, regulations and restrictions, including those of the Visitor's home country and UK national guidance as well as local rules. Please refer to the [UK government COVID-19 website](#) for more details on the current status in the UK.
- It is the responsibility of the UoB Academic Host to ensure that the proposed visit is compliant with [all UoB policies](#). This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring that they have undertaken due diligence with regard to [Intellectual Property Rights](#), [Research Integrity](#), and the [UoB Freedom of Speech Code of Practice](#), in consultation with their School and/or Department as appropriate. The visit must also be compliant with the [UoB's COVID-19 policies and guidance](#), including any requirements for regular testing, social distancing, and/or masks on campus.



### **Post-Award Requirements**

Please be aware that it is a condition of funding that all award holders complete a Bristol Next Generation Visiting Researchers **End of Award Report Form** at the end of the visit. This form must be forwarded to the UoB Academic Host's Head of Department/School for comment before submitting electronically to [irp-admin@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:irp-admin@bristol.ac.uk) **within four weeks of the award end date**.

Please note that it is the UoB Academic Host's responsibility to enter **all relevant visit outcomes into [PURE](#)**, suitably acknowledging the Bristol Next Generation Visiting Researcher Programme.

All Bristol Next Generation Visiting Researchers will become members of the **Alumni community**, with continued opportunities for engagement. The Next Generation Visiting Researcher scheme is designed to represent the first or early stage in a developing partnership between both individuals and institutions. We would expect that all Alumni would continue to **be an advocate for the UoB** after their visit, both at their home institutions but also within the broader community.

Award holders may also be eligible to apply for **Benjamin Meaker Follow-on Funding** to further develop their partnerships and build upon the outcomes and progress of the initial visit. [Please click here for more information.](#)

### **Contact information**

For all queries please contact the International Research Partnerships team via [irp-admin@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:irp-admin@bristol.ac.uk).